

Chinese president congratulates Arafat

HONG KONG (AFP) — Chinese President Jiang Zemin on Wednesday congratulated visiting Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat on the signing of the Israel-PLO peace accord last week. The accord resulted from "the long-term struggle of the Palestinian people and the flexible and practical policies adopted by the PLO," Mr. Jiang was quoted as saying by the Xinhua News Agency, monitored here. "For that, we once again extend congratulations and express admiration for President Arafat's foresight and sagacity," Mr. Jiang said during an 80-minute meeting with the PLO leader. Mr. Arafat arrived in Peking Wednesday for a three-day visit at Mr. Jiang's invitation. Quoting the Chinese proverb, "the force of the wind tests the strength of the grass," Mr. Jiang said the traditional friendship between China and the PLO had survived the test of recent world events. "We are glad to see that the Palestinian people have made important achievements in realising their goal," he added. During the meeting, Mr. Arafat expressed his gratitude for Beijing's past support and said he hoped China would continue to play a constructive role in the settlement of the Middle East issue. Both men agreed on the need to further develop bilateral relations.



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Yeltsin, hardliners duel

Russian president garners broad support against rivals

Combined agency dispatches

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin, backed by the military and cheered in the street by civilians, said Wednesday he did not intend to use force against hardline lawmakers who were trying to set up a rival government.

Pedestrians applauded Mr. Yeltsin when he made a brief impromptu appearance Wednesday with his military commanders in Pushkin Square, one of Moscow's busiest places. He told the hundreds of people who surrounded him that most Russians supported his decision to dissolve parliament and order new elections in December.

Tuesday's announcement amounted to a coup against Mr. Yeltsin's longtime foes, a bold gamble to break the stalemate that has paralysed Russian government for more than a year. En route, however, Mr. Yeltsin trampled the Soviet-era constitution, a document he has been trying to replace, and enraged those against his reforms. "We would not like and do not intend to use any force," Mr. Yeltsin told the crowd. "We want everything to go peacefully, without blood. This is our principal task."



A group of Russian special militia troops stand by lorries full of other troops near the government building in case of any problems following President Boris Yeltsin's TV address dissolving parliament (AFP photo)

Onlookers shouted: "We support you" and "president, you must take Russia out of the deadlock." Defence Minister Pavel Grachev told the crowd he had meetings with top commanders and the military "unequivocally support the president as commander-in-chief."

Mr. Yeltsin's high-stakes gamble could determine what kind of government emerges from the chaos of the post-Soviet era. And it could finally settle the question of who rules Russia: The president or parliament.

Mr. Yeltsin has garnered broad support in his offensive. World leaders and Russia's constituent republics backed his dissolution of the Soviet-era parliament to call new elections.

He wasted no time in appointing new ministers despite counter moves by the defiant parliament which named his arch rival Vice President Alexander Rutskoi as president Tuesday.

Pressing ahead with his economic reforms, Mr. Yeltsin officially appointed Yegor Gaidar as first deputy prime minister in charge of the economy and announced the appointment of Oleg Davidov as minister of foreign economic relations to replace Sergei Glaziev, who resigned late Tuesday.

Mr. Gaidar was one of the main architects of the "shock therapy" which has catapulted Russia out of the communist system and into capitalism, causing massive inflation, growing unemployment and provoking bitter criticism of Mr. Yeltsin's reforms.

Mr. Yeltsin on Tuesday dissolved parliament and called elections to a new bicameral federal assembly on December 11 and 12, scrapping the old-guard Congress of People's Deputies.

In a letter to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali he said he (Continued on page 10)

King congratulates Saudi monarch

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable of good wishes to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia on his country's national day. He wished King Fahd continued health and the Saudi people further progress and prosperity.

Arabs lobby for Security Council seat

CAIRO (R) — The 22-member Arab League will lobby on the fringes of the United Nations General Assembly this week for a permanent Arab seat on the Security Council, league sources said Wednesday. League foreign ministers who met in Cairo Sunday and Monday agreed a statement saying if the permanent membership of the Security Council was expanded from the current five to include Japan, Germany, and other countries, they would ask for an Arab seat.

Israeli army denies Katyusha attack

TEL AVIV (AP) — The army denied Wednesday that any Katyusha rockets were fired at northern Israel from Lebanon and raised the possibility that the ordinance was fired mistakenly from an Israeli base nearby. The statement came several hours after residents in the border town of Kiryat Shmona and Israel Radio reported that a rocket had landed nearby, causing no damage or injury. The army never confirmed whether a rocket landed at the time saying it was checking the reports. Later it said that after an investigation into the claims it turned out that "no Katyusha was fired into Israeli territory."

Ciller defends Turkey's human rights

BERLIN (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, under fire from critics of her country's human rights record, said on Wednesday that Turkey had far more rights than Turkey living in Germany. Ms. Ciller, who provoked demonstrations by exiled Kurds during her three-day visit, told journalists before leaving Berlin there were no minorities and no discrimination in Turkey. She repeated her call for Germany to grant citizenship to its 1.8 million-strong Turkish minority.

Oman signs deal for border survey

MUSCAT (R) — Oman Wednesday signed an agreement with German company Hansa Luftbild to carry out a detailed survey of its border with Yemen, established by the two countries in October last year.

Knesset debate continues

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's parliament Wednesday entered its second day of acrimonious debate over the government's peace agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), while Israeli media speculated about early elections.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's coalition was fighting for a convincing majority to back the accord, with its ultra-religious coalition partner, Shas, demanding a national referendum on the issue.

Mr. Rabin's spokesman, Gad Ben-Ari, said that Mr. Rabin opposed a nationwide poll on the agreement that outlines Palestinian autonomy starting in the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

"What is needed is a simple majority, which we hope and believe we will have," Mr. Ben-Ari said. Without Shas, the coalition governs 61 seats with the backing of five Arab legislators. Likud legislator asked the plenum to vote against the agreement, saying it destroyed the work of a generation.

"I don't know if this will be a real agreement that will bear results," Mr. Meridor said. "But the destruction of the work of a generation... is very grave, even if nothing comes out of this, and even if something does."

Mr. Ben-Ari also denied a report in the mass-circulation daily Maariv that Mr. Rabin would consider calling early elections if he won only 61 votes in the 120-seat parliament on Thursday.

However, a senior political source said such a slim majority would call into question the coalition's ability to function. The source, who demanded anonymity, said that Mr. Rabin had the option of seeking new coalition partners which would avoid new elections.

But, if Mr. Rabin is forced to turn to right-wing parties it could derail momentum towards agreement with Syria and other Arab states. An estimated 80,000 Israelis demonstrated against the accord outside the parliament during the stormy debate which lasted late into Tuesday night. Israel Radio said 34 members spoke. All 120 members of parliament will be allowed to speak.

Refugees cannot vote in Jordan and occupied lands

AMMAN (AFP) — Palestinian refugees living in Jordan will not be allowed to take part in elections in both the Kingdom and the Israeli-occupied territories, a Jordanian official said Wednesday.

Cabinet Affairs Minister Jawad Anani said the decision not to allow the refugees to take part in both elections was taken at talks here Monday and Tuesday between King Hussein and Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"We agreed on the principle that there should not be duplication," he said, adding that "the joint (Jordanian-Palestinian) committees will have to work out the modalities."

Jordan holds its first multiparty parliamentary elections in 37 years on Nov. 8. Balloting is set for July 1994 for a Palestinian council which is to run the areas of the occupied territories set to achieve autonomy in line with an agreement signed by the PLO and Israel in Washington on Sept. 13.

Under the accord, the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho are to become autonomous next month.

Israel has agreed to discuss the return of some 350,000 Palestinian refugees from the 1967 Arab-Israeli war as part of the autonomy deal, but opposes the return of the 736,000 who fled in 1948.

The figures are estimated by the United Nations and have swelled to about two million registered refugees today.

According to Amman, the possibility of return must rely to the 672,000 Palestinians it says were displaced by the 1967 war and are still residing in Jordan.

Jordan has been home to another 1,080,000 Palestinian refugees from 1948, when the Jewish state was created.



Jawad Al Anani

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Dr. Anani said the return of refugees would be debated by the Palestine Central Council in Tunis in the next two weeks and discussed bilaterally between Jordan and the Palestinians.

The PLO will then raise with Israel the terms agreed upon to facilitate the return of the largest number of refugees.

"Of course there is a long list of details to be discussed, how many per day, what papers to carry, property rights, etc.," he said.

He also said that Jordan refuses to participate in the quadripartite Israeli-Palestinian-Egyptian-Jordanian committee on refugees mentioned in the PLO-Israeli accord.

"We are not going to be a party of any arrangement done in our absence and will not accept duties and functions assigned to us that we did not agree on," he said.

"That does not mean we are not going to cooperate on the issue," he said.

On Amman's decision to limit the entry of Palestinians from the territories, Dr. Anani said the PLO and Jordan agreed on adopting measures to avoid an influx of people, especially from the economically-strapped Gaza Strip, into the Kingdom (see page 3).

Only Palestinians with business in Jordan will henceforth be admitted. They will be required to leave once their affairs are settled, he stressed.

Mr. Arafat stressed Wednesday that the Golan Heights seized by Israel in 1967 and "annexed" to political disputes among Palestinian groups over the Israel-PLO declaration of principles. PLO information chief Yasser Abed Rabbo said.

Mr. Abed Rabbo would not elaborate on why Mr. Abu Shaaban was killed.

The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), an opponent of the PLO-Israeli agreement and strongly backed in the Gaza Strip, condemned the assassination in a statement released in Amman.

Hamas "strongly condemns political assassinations... and rejects confrontation between the sons of our people, whatever their political differences," the statement said.

The organisation accused Israeli agents of murdering Mr. Abu Shaaban and sent a delegation to offer condolences to his family.

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Iraq frees Swedes held for illegal entry

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq Wednesday released three Swedish employees of the telecommunications firm Ericsson who were sentenced a year ago to seven years in prison for illegal entry. Stefan Wihlborg, 32, Christer Stromgren, 43, and Leif Westerberg, 42, told a news conference at Baghdad's Al Rashid hotel that they had been well-treated at the Abu Ghraib prison, where they shared the same cell. They were to leave the Iraqi capital by road for Amman later Wednesday or Thursday at the latest. Other westerners imprisoned in Iraq for illegal entry were in good health, the Swedes said. Iraq has linked the freeing of the prisoners to the release of frozen Iraqi assets in the West. The three engineers from Stockholm were sentenced to seven years in prison on Sept. 20, 1992, after straying across the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border slightly more than two weeks earlier. They had left Kuwait City for Sabriya, an oil field north of the Kuwaiti capital, where they were to install mobile telephone base stations, but they lost their way and drove into Iraq. Mr. Wihlborg, looking fit, said they had no maps at the time and that no one in Kuwait had briefed them on the border area.



ARMY CELEBRATIONS: His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Wednesday attended a ceremony marking the Royal Artillery Corps' anniversary and watched exercises with live ammunition. The King also inspected an exhibition of military equipment and arms used by the Royal Artillery Corps. In recognition of the efficiency and skill of the troops, the King conferred the Jordanian Al Kawkab Medal of the First Order on the whole corps. The corps commander presented the King with a symbolic gift on the occasion. Present at the ceremony were: Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah, Prince Faisal, Prince Ali, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, Royal Court Chief Khalid Karaki and senior army officers. Earlier the King called at the Army Headquarters and met with Lieutenant General Abdul Hafiz Mirza, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. They discussed issues of concern to the Armed Forces.

Jordan and the PLO — time for new kind of relationship

Magnanimity, mutual interests put two on track

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

WHEN YASSER Arafat arrived in Amman on Sept. 20, on a visit that was supposed to take place before the week of mutual recognition and the signing of the autonomy agreement with Israel, Jordan had signed its own agenda deal with the Jewish state and was now ready to start a new kind of relationship with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). His Majesty King Hussein extended a red carpet welcome to the PLO chairman and lost no time in informing him that Jordan, having quickly gotten over its hard feelings of the past several weeks, would extend all possible help and assistance to make the autonomy plan work.

Although Mr. Arafat seems to have taken for granted that such a Jordanian attitude was eventually inevitable, he was all the more grateful because it came at exactly the time when he needed it most. President Hafez Al Assad of Syria had just told an Egyptian newspaper that he was totally unhappy with the PLO-Israeli deal, even though he would not go out of his way to oppose it.

Being the "ultimate gentleman in politics," as one Jordanian insider put it, King Hussein uttered not a word of blame for the way Mr. Arafat handled the negotiations leading to the agreement with Israel. Jordan was the PLO's full partner in the peace negotiations and the two leaders had signed a deal (back in February 1985) over a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation; yet the PLO chose to go it alone and signed a deal for a truncated mini-state with Israel without the approval of a partner who also stood to lose from it.

NEWS ANALYSIS

What the Monarch did instead was to inform his guest that Jordan would agree to all Palestinian requests for assistance in the fields of security, training and organisation in the period leading up to the implementation of the accord and beyond.

Mr. Arafat's response was predictably enthusiastic and very encouraging, according to senior officials who attended the meetings. The Palestinian president knows that without full Jordanian cooperation, the implementation of the "Gaza-Jericho first" plan would be extremely difficult, if not altogether impossible. But whether he also realises, and is ready, to meet what Jordan needs in return for its cooperation and assistance is not very clear yet.

The King has publicly said that he will ask for nothing in lieu of extending support to the Oslo agreement and for having been the major recipient of negative fallout from the Palestinian problem. But beyond the magnanimity, there are real concerns for Jordan: Its well-being and very survival, which Mr. Arafat can and should address if the new relationship is to be different from earlier failed attempts to forge lasting bonds.

For most on the Jordanian establishment, the main issue and future of Palestinians living in Jordan and who are estimated to be half of the population. The King, in recent statements and in private, (Continued on page 20)

Mubarak, Assad seek deal in Syria-Israel negotiations

Combined agency dispatches

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak held talks with his Syrian counterpart Hafez Al Assad here Wednesday and called for a renewed effort to break the deadlock in Syrian-Israeli peace negotiations.

"We cannot put aside Syria, because Syria is so important in this period," Mr. Mubarak told reporters following his three-hour meeting with the Syrian leader in this summer capital on the Mediterranean.

"I differ with (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin when he said we can go on one track. One track is not enough to reach a comprehensive settlement," the Egyptian president said.

Mr. Rabin alarmed Syria last week on his return from the signing of an agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on limited autonomy for the Israeli-occupied territories by saying that the Palestinians were now the priority and that Damascus could wait.

The Israeli premier held talks with Mr. Mubarak on Sunday in Alexandria, following a similar visit by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Mubarak stressed Wednesday that the Golan Heights seized by Israel in 1967 and "annexed" to political disputes among Palestinian groups over the Israel-PLO declaration of principles. PLO information chief Yasser Abed Rabbo said.

At their joint news conference after Wednesday's talks, Mr. Assad and Mr. Mubarak did not indicate new progress.

"Syria is keen on staying in the peace process," Mr. Assad said.

"The Palestinian-Israeli accord does not affect Syria's position. We will continue until the end. We want a fair and comprehensive peace in the area."

He said differences between Israel and Syria are being discussed at the peace talks in Washington.

"The Israelis are ready for a phased withdrawal from the Golan over four months," Mr. Mubarak said, although he failed to specify if Mr. Rabin would accept a total pullout from the strategic heights.

Israel was also prepared "to deal with the problem of (Jewish) settlements (on the Golan) in a more progressive way," Mr. Mubarak added, without elaborating.

Mr. Assad meanwhile again criticised the PLO-Israeli deal saying it undermined Arab unity. "It pained us when we learned of the accord since until then all the Arab parties had coordinated their action," he said before returning to Damascus.

Arab and Israeli officials have privately talked in the past of Israeli-Syrian plans similar to the one outlined by Mr. Mubarak.

U.N. needed for aid to Palestinians, Ghali says

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said Tuesday the United Nations must be involved in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where Palestinians will soon have a measure of self-rule, if quick results were to be obtained in development and other fields.

In an interview with Reuters, he also said he thought the main issue of the 45th General Assembly session, which opened the same day, was: "Finance, finance, finance" — a reference to the U.N. budget crisis.

So far the United Nations has been shut out of the Palestinian-Israeli peace process, and the United States is organising the first conference in Washington shortly to raise money for the Palestinian territories.

But Dr. Ghali, calling for U.N. coordination, said: "You must avoid having a Christmas tree where suddenly 20 organisations and 20 states will each come with its own assistance or its own project, and the people of Gaza and the people of the West Bank will not be able to cope with this."

"I believe that one of the great advantages of the United Nations is that it is the only organisation which is on the ground," he added, referring to the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, the U.N. Development Programme and the U.N. Children's Fund.

"If you need quick results, we

are there...if you want to do something additional, you'll have to start from square one, you have to send new people, you have to begin a new project."

He said the United Nations would be involved not only in economic and social matters but had been asked by both the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel to help with the establishment of an administration and a police force and in organising elections.

Asked about a possible U.N. observer or military presence in the territories, he replied: "If both of them (the PLO and Israel) will ask us, I will have to present this to the Security Council. And I hope that the Security Council will accept."

He noted that U.N. troops or military observers were already stationed on the Golan Heights, on the Israel-Lebanon border and in the Sinai.

Questioned about reports he had been the target of death threats, the 70-year-old Egyptian diplomat said: "This exists since my visit to Jerusalem in November 1977 — I was on all the black lists."

He was referring to an historic visit to Israel by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat which led to a 1979 peace treaty between the two countries. Sadat was assassinated in Cairo by extremists in 1991.

"I got accustomed and take the

maximum security and I hope that nothing will happen," Dr. Ghali said.

Since becoming U.N. secretary-general "we have additional problems," he said, but declined to elaborate.

Asked if he had ruled out a second five-year term at the helm of the world body, he replied: "Oh yes, I hope so. I still have three years now...it is a question of age. I am not sure that after three years I will be able to maintain this momentum."

Asked what issues the current General Assembly session should accord priority, he answered immediately: "Finance, finance, finance."

The United Nations is owed close to \$2 billion in unpaid regular budget dues and peacekeeping assessments, and the secretary-general recently announced a number of economy measures, including curtailing meetings and cutting down on the distribution of documents.

Of this amount the United States owes nearly \$800 million and Russia \$300 million.

But Dr. Ghali said the problem was not restricted to these two countries, noting that only a handful of the 184 members adhered to the rules by paying their contributions.

"Now we must have a new approach," either by allowing the United Nations to borrow money or by charging interest.

Gulf to discuss cash for Palestinians

KUWAIT (R) — A meeting of oil-rich Gulf states expected before the end of the year will discuss whether to put the region's financial might behind Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts, Kuwaiti and European Community (EC) officials say.

"Now it is time that we all work in order to enhance peace," said Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Al Dakhil said after talks with a visiting European Community (EC) team Tuesday.

"Financial backing of the Israeli-Palestinian peace deal will be discussed in the ministerial council of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)," the Kuwait News Agency quoted Mr. Dakhil as saying.

Foreign ministers of the GCC, grouping Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), are expected to meet in Riyadh before the end of the year.

Mr. Dakhil spoke after talks with an EC team that is touring Gulf states to encourage them to provide financial muscle for the accord on Palestinian self-rule signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Sept. 13.

European leaders hope Gulf

states can overcome a rift with the PLO over its support for Iraq during the Gulf war and move towards reconciliation in the interests of Middle East peace.

Kuwait's ties with the PLO are particularly chilly because of its support for Iraq during Baghdad's 1990-91 occupation.

But Kuwait officials take care to distinguish between relations with the PLO and ties to ordinary Palestinians. They note that Kuwait has continued to contribute to Palestinian development through multilateral organisations.

The U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said in Geneva Tuesday up to \$12 billion will be required in the next decade to rehabilitate the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We had promised from the emir and the minister of foreign affairs that the matter (funding development for Palestinians) must be discussed in the Gulf Cooperation Council," the Kuwait News Agency quoted EC delegation leader Eric Dierckx as saying.

Mr. Dierckx, Belgium's secretary of state for cooperation and development, Greek Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Vangelis Tsoukotas and Danish Secretary of State for Interna-

tional Affairs Ole Poulsen, met the emir and then held separate talks with Mr. Dakhil and Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Sulaiman Majed Al Shabane before leaving for Oman and Brussels.

Mr. Dierckx said: "Kuwait was the most delicate country to visit regarding the problem because we are aware of the sensitivity towards the Palestinian (leadership)."

The agency quoted Mr. Dierckx as saying he had held good meetings in Saudi Arabia and the UAE on Monday.

Mr. Dierckx suggested on arrival that Europe and the Middle East had a common interest in development aid for Palestinians because this would weaken fundamentalist forces in both regions.

"As you know we are very much against fundamentalism in Europe, and I think by contributing to stability and effective peace in these countries we can reach a major achievement in world peace," Mr. Dierckx said.

He declined to comment on published reports quoting Palestinian sources as saying the United States was seeking \$200 million from Gulf states in short term aid for Palestinians.

Germany, France sold Iraq most arms

LONDON (AP) — Despite authorising the sale of arms-making equipment to Iraq in 1988, Britain was stricter than France, Germany or Russia about arming Iraq, a former government minister said Tuesday.

"We would have sacrificed these contracts to no benefit because they (the Iraqis) could easily replace them," said David Mellor, a Foreign Office minister from 1987 to 1988. "We know other countries were queuing up."

Mr. Mellor was testifying at a judicial inquiry into charges that the government connived in breaking its curbs on arms sales, and supplied Iraq right up to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Since the investigation opened in the spring, testimony from witnesses — mainly civil servants — has shown that the government backtracked licenses for the right to export machine tools in

1988 despite intelligence warnings that these were used to make munitions.

"As we know now, the Germans were busy supplying stuff to make chemical weapons," Mr. Mellor said, adding, "The French were supplying them with everything that could move."

Prime Minister John Major ordered the inquiry after the acquittal last November of three British executives charged with illegally supplying further consignments of the machine tools from 1983 to 1990.

Charges against the executives of the Iraqi-owned Matrix Churchill Corporation, based in Coventry, England, were dropped after a former trade minister said he had encouraged the sales.

Britain imposed restraints in late 1984 on arms-related sales to Iraq and Iran because of their

nine-year war, which ended in 1988.

Testimony so far has underlined friction between the Department of Trade and the Defence Ministry — both increasingly restive about the self-imposed restraints — and the more restrictive Foreign Office.

Mr. Mellor said he agreed to the backdating of export licenses — worth some £37 million (\$57 million at current exchange rates) to three British companies — only because the contracts had already been granted.

If the orders had been new, Mr. Mellor said, he would have opposed licenses on the grounds that the equipment contravened the government's guidelines.

Margaret Thatcher, who was prime minister until November 1990, Dr. Ahmad Khazim, her successor, are both due to give evidence to the investigation.

Tunis 'exciting novelty' for Israelis

TUNIS (R) — A member of the first Israeli delegation to Tunisia said Tuesday that contact with an unfamiliar Arab country had been an exciting novelty.

"It's been a pleasure and most interesting," said Yossi Gal, one of five Israeli foreign ministry officials preparing for an international conference on refugees in Tunis next month.

"It's exciting to be in another country and work on what hopefully will be another step towards peace," added Mr. Gal, who is

deputy director for press and information.

The Israelis have so far had two days of talks with the Tunisians on the logistics for the conference, complicated from Israel's point of view because it has no relations with Tunisia.

They are looking mainly at accommodation, transport, communications and security.

"The talks have been businesslike. So far, so good, considering that it's the first time

...and there's certainly a sense of novelty," Mr. Gal told Reuters.

Mr. Gal said it was unlikely the Israelis would meet members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), not for any diplomatic reason but just because they did not need to.

They have seen diplomats from the United States, which sponsors the Middle East peace process, and from Canada, which has been hosting the multilateral talks on refugees.

A lot of wheeling and dealing went into Israel-PLO accord

From Michael Jansen in Tunis

THE NEGOTIATIONS which led to the Oslo accord were first suggested to the Israelis by Torje Rod Larsen, head of a Norwegian institute researching conditions in the occupied territories, to Yossi Beilin, an opposition Labour member of Knesset, in April 1992. But Mr. Beilin, preoccupied with the election campaign, did not pursue the matter until September, after Labour had formed a government, with Mr. Beilin as deputy foreign minister. At that time a senior Norwegian diplomat proposed that his country facilitate secret talks between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

along with Abu Ala', Israel initiated official participation only after its Foreign Minister, Shimon Peres, was convinced that the talks could succeed. Thereafter he convinced the far more sceptical Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin that the time had come to take the plunge into talks with the PLO.

Mr. Asfour said that Peres was encouraged by Daniel Kurtzer, of the peace team established by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Considered as the State Department official most committed to the peace process, Mr. Kurtzer was thereafter informed of developments but not specifics. The two sides kept the Americans out of the Norwegian talks because both the Palestinians and Israelis feared that pro-Likud hawk in the Clinton administration like Martin Indyk would inform the Likud leadership in Israel about what was going on, offering the opponents of the peace process the opportunity to scuttle the backchannel negotiations. The U.S., Mr. Asfour asserted, had no role and was only shown the "Oslo accord" when Mr. Peres paid his overnight visit to Mr. Christopher in California on August 28, hence Washington's initial peevishness and mulish opposition.

The negotiations were particularly arduous for Abu Ala' and Mr. Asfour, who were compelled to operate in English, which neither speak with great fluency. They had to come up with a text, in legal and political language, which could determine the future of the hardpressed Palestinian people.

Mr. Asfour laughed. "We used to telephone friends here and there and ask, 'what does this or that mean?' They were puzzled... but they never worked out what we were doing. They over dreamed we were negotiating directly with the Israelis."

Mr. Asfour said the two sides, from time to time, also submitted specific negotiating problems to their delegations at the bilateral talks, inserting solutions devised by the teams into the draft "declaration of principles". The teams also brought in other contacts — Osama Al Baz and Nabil Shaath in Cairo and Ahmad Tibi and Haim Ramon and Yossi Sarid in Israel — to work out difficult issues. But, Mr. Asfour said, these negotiators operated outside the Oslo framework without being fully informed of what was going on. There was, of course, a great deal of informed and misinformed speculation.

The first direct contact between the PLO and emissaries of Mr. Beilin was made in December 1992 when Ahmad Korieh (Abu Ala'), head of economic planning for the PLO, met Dr. Yair Hirschfeld, a professor of Middle East history at Haifa University, in the Forte Crest St. James' Hotel, Abu Ala' was in London attending meetings of the steering committee for the multi-lateral negotiations between Israel and the Arab governments.

The months of discussions between the Norwegians and Israelis amounted to nothing until this encounter was arranged and even then this was only a partial breakthrough because the contacts could always have been broken off, and Dr. Hirschfeld, who held no official position, disavowed by the Israeli government if the talks had not gone well or news of the negotiations had leaked out.

The first formal meeting took place in Norway on Jan. 20, 1993. It was attended by Abu Ala', Hassan Asfour, secretary of the PLO's "follow-up committee" on the peace process and a still unnamed Palestinian figure representing the PLO and Dr. Ron Pundack of Tel Aviv University on behalf of Israel. The talks were tentative and exploratory, Abu Ala' reporting back to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and the Israeli academics to Mr. Beilin. At the second formal session in Norway in February the two sides presented the first of "many" draft agreements, Mr. Asfour told this correspondent, launching the negotiating process. The talks quickly gathered purpose and picked up momentum. But it took three more sessions in Norway before the Israelis, who had, after all, initiated the direct talks with the PLO, to steel their souls and dispatch an official team to continue the negotiations.

Israel did not do this until the end of April when Uri Savir, the director general of its foreign ministry, took over the talks and brought in Yoel Zinger, the ministry's legal adviser.

According to Mr. Asfour, who attended all the sessions

The game was nearly up in June when news agencies reported "secret talks" between U.S., Israeli and Palestinian negotiators "in Norway" where Washington was said to be promoting a "leopard skin" pattern of Palestinian "zones of influence" spreading across the West Bank and an Israeli pullout from Gaza. But the story sank like a stone in the well of speculation. When the accords were finally initiated only a dozen people knew what had been agreed on.

On the Palestinian side the motivating force was "Abu Mazen". Given the nickname "the holy spirit" by the negotiators, he kept a close watch on how drafts developed from session to session. The other PLO men in the know were Mr. Arafat, Yasser Abed Rabbo and Bashir Barghout of the People's Party; by informing his supporters on the Executive Committee Mr. Arafat maintained his control through consensus.

On the Israeli side, the main motivator was Mr. Peres. After the officials took over in April only four others were abreast of developments, Mr. Rabin, Mr. Beilin, Mr. Savir and Mr. Zinger. The negotiators used to refer to Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin as the "godfathers."

Mr. Asfour was particularly pleased that the Palestinian side managed to maintain secrecy for two months: "Who could have believed it?" he asked, amazed. "For Arabs to keep quiet for so long is really revolutionary."

It is, of course, this secrecy and separatism which has, rightly, upset and angered Mr. Arafat's Arab partners in the peace process. The only justification for secrecy was uncertainty, the realisation that the Oslo negotiations could come to nothing, as so many previous backroom talks had failed. Indeed, although the agenda for mutual recognition and the signing of the declaration of principles had been worked out by the PLO and Israel, it was not until these events actually happened that anyone was certain they would proceed.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Egyptian bodyguards for Arafat

TUNIS (AFP) — Egypt has sent bodyguards to Tunisia to help Palestinian and Tunisian officials protect Yasser Arafat, the target of death threats from Palestinian hardliners, a reliable source said Wednesday. The 15 Egyptians arrived last week in Tunis, headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), where the authorities have also boosted security for Mr. Arafat and his aides, said the source, who requested anonymity. The measures were taken following the signing of the PLO-Israel accord in Washington on September 13. Tunisian police have deployed reinforcements around the PLO headquarters and the Interior Ministry has placed on high alert a special unit charged with protecting Palestinians in Tunisia.

Arafat hopes Beijing wins Olympics bid

BEIJING (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Wednesday he hoped the International Olympic Committee would select Beijing to host the 2000 Olympic Games. "I hope Beijing gets it," Mr. Arafat told reporters after a 90-minute meeting with China's President Jiang Zemin. Mr. Arafat arrived in China's capital on Wednesday for a two-day visit to firm up Beijing's support for a recent accord between the PLO and Israel on limited autonomy for the occupied territories. The Chinese government has already indicated support for the historic agreement. China traditionally supports the Palestinian cause but has strengthened relations with Israel since the establishment in January 1992 of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

Libya claims buying Airbus; company denies it

CAIRO (AP) — Libya said Wednesday it has agreed to pay Europe's Airbus consortium \$2 billion for 25 new aircraft, a transaction that would violate a United Nations embargo against Tripoli. Airbus Industrie, the manufacturer, insisted no illegal negotiations have occurred between the company and Libya. A spokesman said discussions are merely to maintain contact "in case they come out of the embargo one day." Libya has been under international sanctions for more than a year for refusing to hand over two suspects in the 1990 Pan Am explosion. The sanctions limit Libyan diplomatic representation and ban international air links or the sale of weapons, aircraft, aircraft parts or aviation insurance to Tripoli. It also bans provision of engineering and maintenance services for Libyan aircraft.

Iran says India must rebuild mosque

NICOSIA (AP) — Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao Wednesday wound up a three-day visit to Iran that was dominated by Iranian expressions of concern about Muslims in Hindu-dominated India. Before leaving Teheran, Mr. Rao told reporters his talks with Iranian officials had been "fruitful," the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. Mr. Rao was seen off at Tehran's Mehrabad airport by President Hashemi Rafsanjani, who said the two countries were "willing to expand mutual cooperation in various fields." Earlier Wednesday, Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, told Mr. Rao that Muslims around the world expected him to rebuild an ancient Muslim shrine destroyed by militant Hindus last year, Teheran, Radio reported. "The Muslim world expects the Indian prime minister to take the necessary measures to rebuild" the shrine, Ayatollah Khamenei told Mr. Rao in Teheran.

Poisoned fish hit Abu Dhabi beaches

ABU DHABI (AP) — Large numbers of dead fish with traces of poisonous chemicals have been found along the coastline, prompting official warnings Wednesday. The public, through an official statement published in all local papers, was warned to neither eat nor catch fish until further notice. Abu Dhabi Television said it interrupted programmes after midnight Tuesday to broadcast the warning, saying it followed intensive investigations of the dead fish during the day by specialised committees. Police were spread along the Abu Dhabi coast at dawn Wednesday morning to stop early fishermen who did not take note of the warning, and municipality officials affirmed the situation was serious.

Tehran Radio calls British talks positive

NICOSIA (R) — Tehran Radio predicted on Tuesday that Iran's relations with Britain will improve soon in spite of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's "irreversible" call for the killing of novelists Salman Rushdie. British envoy Michael Burton's talks with Iranian officials last weekend were "explicit and positive," the radio said. "Apart from the issue of Salman Rushdie — in whose case the late Imam Khomeini's fatwa (verdict) is a completely ideological and irreversible matter — at present there is no serious obstacle to the improvement of relations between the two countries," the radio said in a commentary monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation. "It is expected that explicit and positive talks of Mr. Michael Burton with Iranian officials in Teheran will be instrumental in removing certain doubts and ambiguities in current assessments with regard to Tehran-London ties, thus paving the way for expansion of relations between the two states in the near future," it said.

Iran accused of 'brainwashing' Iraqi prisoners

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraqi Deputy Foreign Minister Abdul Majid Al Faisal has accused Iran of "brainwashing" Iraqi prisoners of war (POWs) into carrying out attacks on Iraq, the magazine Alif Ba reported Wednesday. "The Iranian regime is holding on to Iraqi prisoners of war like hostages and is using some of them to carry out subversive actions against their own country after having brainwashed them," Mr. Faisal said. He also accused Iran, which fought an eight-year war with Iraq ending in 1988, of using the POWs as "a means of pressure and for political blackmail," and said Tehran should set them free. Iraq has said that Iran is still detaining 20,000 Iraqis. Tehran says there are 5,000 Iranians imprisoned in Iraq.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30	..... Pif et Hercule
17:45	..... Gool
18:15	..... Gool
19:00	..... News in French
19:15	..... Azimuts
19:30	..... News in Hebrew
20:00	..... News in Arabic
20:30	..... Couch
21:10	..... Act of Will
22:00	..... News in English
22:30	.....

Movie of the Week: "Johnny Train"

PRAYER TIMES

05:42	..... Fajr
06:20	..... (Sunrise) Doha
12:28	..... Dhahr
15:54	..... Asr
18:37	..... Maghreb
19:54	..... Jaha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Suedieh, Tel. 617741	Assamites of God Church, Tel. 62785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 625404	Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627400
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	Terrence Church Tel. 622266

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Weather will be fine and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min-max temp.

Amman	17-22
Agaba	22-26
Deir	14-21
Jordan Valley	26-35

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 28, Agaba 35.5, Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent, Agaba 32 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Farouq Nour	786681
Dr. Bahjat Badr	849362
Dr. Ahmad Khazim	747684
Dr. Jihad Zydeh	881148
Firas pharmacy	661912
Fordows pharmacy	773036
Al Asena pharmacy	637055
Nurook pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmehani pharmacy	637660
Najih pharmacy	847632

RAED:

Dr. Ali Al Shuqari	246140
Al Quds pharmacy	(-)

ZARQA:

Dr. Farouq Hamdallah	967944
Khalil pharmacy	785417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Emergency	630441
Police	199
Fire Brigade	891228

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/22
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	644281/6
Al-Khad Maternity, J. Amn.	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malika, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmehani	664171/4
Shmehani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845645
Al-Hamra Hospital	667277/9
The Islamic, Abdal	666127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdal	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/26
Amy, Marja	891211/5
Queen Alia Hospital	602340/50
Amal Hospital	674155

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53300-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:45	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
08:00	Samsa (RJ)
08:30	Aden (RJ)
09:45	New Delhi (RJ)
10:15	Riyadh (RJ)
10:15	Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
10:30	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:55	Beirut (RJ)
11:40	Colombo (RJ)
18:30	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
07:00	Beirut (RJ)
12:00	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
12:05	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
12:15	Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
12:30	Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
12:30	Agaba, Paris (RJ)
13:00	Larnaca, Athens (RJ)
13:00	Larnaca, Athens (RJ)
13:15	London (RJ)
13:30	Rome (RJ)
14:00	Madrid (RJ)
21:30	Jeddah (RJ)
21:30	Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
21:45	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:45	Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:10	Riyadh (SA)
13:30	Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
14:00	Riyadh (SU)
16:35	Rome (AZ)
20:35	Cairo (MS)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	680/800
Banana	600
Banana (Mukammal)	620
Cabbage	720/740
Carrot	140/180
Cauliflower	250/280
Cucumbers (large)	140/160
Cucumbers (small)	250/280
Eggplant	250/280
Fig	250/280
Garlic	250/280
Grape	850/880
Green pepper	340/360
Lemon	620/500
Marrow (large)	280/300
Marrow (small)	220/240
Mulhabia	420/380
Okra	180/160
Onion (dry)	950/750
Pepper (hot)	240/150
Pepper (sweet)	240/180
Potato	240/180
Tomato	240/180
Watermelon	160/180

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Al-Hamra Hospital	667277/9
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Italian, Al-Muhajreen	77101/3
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Amy, Marja	891211/5
Queen Alia Hospital	602340/50
Amal Hospital	674155

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18:30	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

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14:00	Riyadh (SU)
16:35	Rome (AZ)
20:35	Cairo (MS)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	680/800
Banana	600

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Closing gap via Cairo

SYRIAN PRESIDENT Hafez Al Assad's visit to Egypt Wednesday to discuss peace efforts in the Middle East with President Hosni Mubarak has a sense of urgency added to it in view of the fact that the circle of Arab deals with Israel has yet to be completed by Damascus and Beirut. Given the fact that the concerned Arab parties, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), are committed to comprehensive peace in the area, a stalemate on the Syrian and Lebanese fronts stands to derail what has already been achieved with the Palestinian and Jordanian sides.

It appears that the government of Yitzhak Rabin is purposely delaying progress on the Golan Heights in order to give Israelis time to digest the Palestinian accord first. The current raucous debate in the Knesset has been marked by acrimony and stiff opposition from at least half of the members. An agreement with Syria now that calls for complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian territories could, in the view of Mr. Rabin and his colleagues, strengthen the right wing forces in Israel which are bitterly opposed to any territorial compromise with their Arab neighbours. It is possible therefore that the Israeli government is deliberately procrastinating on its bilateral peace talks with Syria and Lebanon until it is able to subdue the opposition.

It is an open question whether the Syrian and Israeli negotiating teams could have arrived at a text embodying an agenda or a declaration of principles but delayed announcing it because the timing is a problem. Judging by the nature of the Israeli-PLO or Israeli-Jordanian accords, it might not have been greatly difficult for the Israelis to reach a similar agreement on a mutually agreed-upon agenda or a declaration of principles with the Syrians and the Lebanese. So it could have been solely due to tactical reasons that that was not done.

There is no wisdom or benefit in underestimating the significance of the Golan Heights issue to both Israel and Syria, especially at a time when the former has pegged complete withdrawal to the achievement of a full and normal peace with Damascus. But since the Syrians have consistently been quoted by the Egyptians as accepting to offer complete peace in return for full Israeli withdrawal from occupied Syrian and Lebanese lands, the summit between Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Assad should assume a significance of its own. Just like the Egyptian president played an important role in midwiving the PLO-Israeli autonomy accord, he is trying to broker a deal between Israel and Syria. How far his efforts go in taking the two sides closer this time around will probably not be known immediately, but it will be eventually.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE MEETING between King Hussein and President Arafat in Amman Tuesday was a chance for deep and frank discussion, covering all aspects of the present situation in the Middle East in the wake of the PLO-Israeli agreement, said Al Dustour Arabic daily Wednesday. The meeting was also an opportunity for Jordan to reiterate more strongly its absolute support for the Palestinians and their independent decision concerning the future, said the daily. Jordan is not only reaffirming a clear and unchanging position, it is also clearly and openly declaring that the Palestine question is the Kingdom's national issue, of concern to all the members of the Jordanian family, added the daily. Jordan, said the paper, regards the PLO-Israeli agreement as a first step leading to the regaining of Palestinian soil and taking Palestinians along the path of return to their homeland where they hope to fulfill their national aspirations. Jordan, which is the closest Arab country to the Palestinians, realised that the PLO and the Palestinian people are determined to take this first step towards regaining their rights, therefore, it can only render support for this decision, said the paper. It said that the talks between the two leaders in Amman must have reaffirmed these ideas and dissipated all misconceptions about the future relationship between the Palestinian and the Jordanian people.

NOW THAT the PLO-Israeli agreement has become a reality and will soon be implemented following its approval by the Arab League foreign ministers, there is no point in continuing the accusations and counter accusations by various Palestinian groups, said Ibrahim Al Absi in Al Ra'i Arabic daily. The writer said that the divisions among the Palestinian ranks can neither cancel the agreement nor benefit any of the factions. It is true that the PLO-Israeli agreement is still shrouded in mystery, entails painful sacrifices by the Palestinian people and falls short of fulfilling their national aspirations, but the Arabs as a whole and the Palestinians in particular have had no choice but to start somewhere, he said. Therefore, they accepted participation in the Madrid conference that led to the eleven sessions of talks and the PLO-Israeli deal, he pointed out. The writer had no alternative but to accept the U.S. peace initiative and get involved in the peace process to arrive at a solution.

The accord is right, and now it is time for hard work

By Dr. James Zogby

THE CRITICS have had their say about the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles. The PLO has been attacked for "selling out", for surrendering Palestinian rights to Israeli might, for betraying their historic mission to establish an independent Palestinian state and protecting the rights of Palestinian refugees, and for forsaking Jerusalem.

A careful reading of the declaration of principles shows none of these charges to be true. In fact, by agreeing to this accord, the Palestinian negotiators have given up none of their inalienable rights except one: the right to use armed resistance against the state of Israel. And this "right", I would point out, had become increasingly meaningless and counterproductive, a "right" which had resulted in more Palestinian casualties and more repression of Palestinian rights without bringing about a meaningful improvement in the life and well-being of the Palestinian people.

It is clear that, in confronting the state of Israel, a state that had overwhelming power, Palestinian "armed struggle" was never an effective weapon. Every Israeli casualty, historically, resulted in 40 Palestinian casualties or 100 Palestinian prisoners or 1,000 dunams of confiscated Palestinian land.

Palestinian rights were not, I believe, brought to the centre of the world debate by hijackings and bombs in supermarkets. What kept the Palestinian issue alive all these years was the steadfastness and political will of the Palestinian people, the strength of Palestinian institutions, the ingenuity of Palestinian diplomacy, the courage of the Palestinian mothers and fathers who taught love of their country to generations of Palestinian children, the creativity of the Palestinian artists and poets and the love and commitment of Arab peoples and governments for what never stopped being their cause.

All of these combined were forms of non-violent Palestinian political struggle. They found their highest expression in the first few years of the intifada, when a creative mass movement put the Palestinian issue before the eyes of the world. The children with their stones, the mass protests, strikes and the development of an independent Palestinian infrastructure, these were the weapons that dramatically pushed the Palestinian cause forward.

Here in the U.S., the intifada transformed public debate. The Palestinian children who lost their lives as Israelis traded bullets for stones challenged the conscience of Americans in the same way that a generation ago, black civil rights demonstrators had done.

But a fanatic Likud government and an American foreign policy incapable of quick change (for well-known domestic political reasons) frustrated the intifada. The courage of the children and their largely non-violent

struggle did not reap their deserved reward. Adroit manipulation of the Madrid process enabled the Palestinians to insert themselves as an independent force and even that success did not produce a victory.

But two years later, with the peace process in danger of collapse, the Palestinians quite cleverly snatched victory away from the jaws of defeat. In the process, they have given up a weapon that no longer served their cause (if, in fact, it ever had) and accepted purely political and economic tools as their weapons of choice.

The negative critics say the Palestinians have lost their leverage, but, in fact, their real leverage will increase and their political strength will grow. There is no military solution to this political problem — just as Israel has not been defeated, the will of the Palestinians is the strongest weapon that people have in the strength for national liberation.

What army freed Lithuania? What reunified Germany? By accepting a phased approach to a solution, the Palestinian people are accepting the challenge to build the infrastructure of a state from the ground up. Economic, political and social institutions which the Israelis would never have allowed to be built will now take shape.

In two to five years time Palestinians will have created new and irreversible realities in Palestine. These new factors plus their will to be a free and independent people will create the leverage that will make statehood a reality.

And two to five years of building prosperity and security and a stable civil society will have the additional effect of transforming political opinion in Israel and removing resistance to Palestinian statehood even among American Jews. In that new political climate it will be possible to negotiate those issues that currently seem insoluble. In that new context, it will be possible, as Walid Khalidi once put it, "to think the unthinkable".

The problem with the negative critics is their inability to recognise process and change. They presume that in three years Israel will be the same as it is today and that Palestinians will be in the same condition they are in today. In reality, both societies will change dramatically over the interim period.

This is not to suggest that the process will be simple or that change will come easily. There are still many details to be negotiated and added to the accords, but already the Palestinian political capital in the U.S. has doubled. Already their leverage has increased. The PLO's ability to use this leverage to secure Israeli compliance with the spirit and letter of the accords is greater today than it was at any time during the Madrid process.

With Israel's withdrawal from all Palestinian population centres, with "full authority" being established in Gaza and Jericho, with independent Palestinian development in the entirety of the occupied territories, this accord must be seen as a victory. A small victory, perhaps, but a step on the road to a much larger victory.

Having been witness to the signing ceremony in Washington and having also been involved full-time in the struggle for Palestinian rights here in the U.S. for the past 20 years, I want to add two further dramatic developments which resulted from this accord.

In fact, a taboo was broken and a myth was shattered last week. By negotiating with and formally recognising the PLO, and by signing an accord containing multiple references to "the Palestinian people", the Israeli government has for the first time acknowledged the existence and legitimacy of a distinct national community of Palestinians.

In the West, the political focus of the Middle East policy debate had historically been the Palestinian failure to recognise Israel. But for Arabs, the defining issue of the Middle East conflict has always been refusal of many west-

ern states and Israel to recognise Palestinian national rights.

Palestinians were called refugees or Arabs. In Hebrew literature, they were often referred to in Biblical language — "strangers" in the land of Israel. More recently, the Likud governments of Mr. Begin and Mr. Shamir termed them the "Arab inhabitants of Judea and Samaria." In the Camp David Accords, for example, Mr. Begin wrote that this term should be used in the official Hebrew text. Palestinians were never viewed as an independent people.

There was the implicit assumption that if recognition were given to the Palestinians as a distinct people or as a national community, then they would ultimately be recognised as having national rights to self-determination or statehood.

In a telling comment before the National Press Club in 1985, Mr. Rabin said that a dialogue between the United States and the Palestine Liberation Organisation was "unacceptable" because: "Whoever agrees to talk to the PLO means that he accepts in principle the creation of an independent Palestinian state between Israel and Jordan."

As someone who has fought the arcane battle over platform language at several past national and state Democratic and Republican conventions, I can attest to the blanket refusal of pro-Israel supporters in the United States to even accept the term "Palestinian people."

To invalidate the PLO and the notion of Palestinian peoplehood, a taboo of near religious proportions was established around the PLO — no talks, no contact, no recognition. Any U.S. politician who violated the taboo could pay with his or her political life.

To therefore witness not only the signing of the recent agreement and the handshake between Mr. Rabin, Mr. Arafat and Mr. Clinton, but to see the steady stream of visitors to Mr. Arafat's hotel here in Washington, including former President Carter, for-

mer President Bush, American Jewish leaders from the Senate and Congress, suggests just how dramatically the ground has shifted in recent weeks.

The taboo has been broken and for the first time the public views a Palestinian people represented by their own leaders and presenting their own grievances, history and hopes for the future.

Some critics suggest that Mr. Arafat is only now being accepted because he has surrendered Palestinian rights, but that ignores the reality of the text of the accord Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) signed. True, Mr. Arafat put down his gun and carried only an olive branch and true, he accepted an interim process rather than demanding an immediate state, but he did not surrender the right to a state or the right to Jerusalem or the right of the 1948 refugees to return.

And those politicians and American leaders who came to see Mr. Arafat did not behave as though they were witnessing the last rites of a dying movement. People of the stature of those who visited the chairman here do not spend time with losers. They came fully aware of the fact that the PLO had won a victory and a state is in the process of being born.

As distressing as the PLO taboo had been, Arab Americans and progressive Jewish Americans who supported the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of mutual recognition faced yet another hurdle. The idea that the Middle East conflict was in all probability "unsolvable" not only between the two communities but also within policy-making channels at the State Department and in Congress.

The conventional wisdom that emerged proffered several theories, all of them ahistoric and unfair but nevertheless pervasive. What was described as the "age-old" enmity between Arabs and Jews, it was argued, was too "deeply rooted" to overcome. Another suggested that the Middle East conflict was "too complex" to allow a solution. Still another popular notion was the idea that Jews and Arabs were congenitally flawed and therefore were not capable of the kind of compromise and dialogue peace required.

It therefore was a shock to the political culture of this country to read the finished text of the Gaza/Jericho agreement. It was subtle, complex, comprehensive and masterfully constructed to allow for future accommodation. And it was the result of tough, secret negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians themselves.

The collective gasp of pundits and policy-makers alike upon news of the breakthrough was thus a reaction to the shattering of much-cherished myths. Suddenly, peace was indeed possible. In a masterful stroke, President Clinton invited both Israeli Prime

Minister Rabin and PLO Chairman Arafat to the White House for the signing ceremony, in effect to give public witness to this new chapter in Middle East history. Equally significant was the White House invitation to Arab American and Jewish American leaders to attend the signing ceremony itself and then a smaller White House session with President Clinton, Vice President Gore and Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Not only did Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat shake hands, but after a day of witnessing this historic breakthrough, Arab Americans and Jewish Americans took their own steps towards reconciliation. Plans, meetings and discussions are already being laid to help support and build upon the agreement signed last week. Interestingly, in all those discussions, no one spoke of the past. Rather, all eyes focused on the detailed work to be done in order to build a better future.

And, in fact, there is a great deal of work to be done. This agreement is not an end, but only a beginning and it will shift our priorities but not lessen the load.

What is important is that not only are we committed to the work that will build peace, but the U.S. president himself is now totally invested in this process.

I attended a smaller meeting with the U.S. president and vice president two days after the signing and once again we discussed the work to be done. This week we will have three meetings at the White House and State Department to discuss ways of mobilising support for the implementation of the accords, to bring private investment to develop the Palestinian lands and to seek out other non-traditional sources of training and support to build Palestinian infrastructure.

Peace is not yet at hand. All the issues have not been resolved. This is not a time for celebration. It is time for hard work.

The critics say "no", that is easy to do. The critics are content to live with the pain of the real injustices of the past that is painful, but also easy.

What is difficult but right and necessary is to recognise the small victory that has just been won and to take advantage of the doors that that small victory opens. We must accept the good will of those who would work with us to create a better future and we must put aside the pain and the cry for retribution (no matter how justified) and learn instead to build new realities that will lead inevitably to an independent Palestinian state and a more secure, peaceful and prosperous Middle East.

We must do this because it is right and because people's lives depend on it.

The writer is president of the Washington-based Arab American Institute. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

M. KAHIL



Did the Gaza-Jericho first give birth to a ridiculous mouse?

The writer is a Cyprus-based journalist specialising in Islamic and Middle Eastern affairs. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

By G. H. Jansen

Seldom can any bilateral agreement between two antagonists have produced such strange reactions as has the "Gaza-Jericho first" accord. These strange reactions are of two sorts.

When an agreement comes after an armed conflict, as it has in this case, and there is a victor and a vanquished, Israel and the Palestinians, it is normal that one side, the victor, be pleased with the terms reached and the vanquished unhappy with the result. This was most clearly seen in the peace agreements made after World Wars I and II.

But "Gaza-Jericho first" has produced reactions of acceptance and rejection on both sides, and very bitter rejection at that. Since the PLO and the Israeli government worked out the terms together, they both naturally accept them but neither does so with any great enthusiasm, which is why the negotiations were shrouded in great secrecy and hidden even from their own sides.

The opposition to the agreement, on both sides, is very angry and bitter, with those responsible being denounced as "traitors" and threatened with death. Since Israel is a state, the opposition there — the Likud party, some of the religious parties and the settlers — cannot very well threaten to abrogate or repudiate something which the gov-

ernment has accepted, but they threaten that if once again in power, they will ignore the agreement and do everything to counter its effects. On the PLO side, the opposition, under no such restraint, says that it aims to "destroy" the accord.

There is widespread agreement among the Palestinians, even including those who accept the accord, that it gave away too much and got too little in return: according to President Hafez Al Assad, "nothing. There are solid reasons for reaching such an assessment: Israel has not recognised the Palestinian right to a state and has merely recognised the PLO as the Palestinian people's 'representative'." Israel is to permit limited autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, but has made no commitment to withdraw from the West Bank, only to discuss it, and the status of Jerusalem a few years hence. Also, the Palestinians are to end the intifada, which pushed Israel into making the agreement, and without any quid pro quo because Israel still occupies the West Bank. Very little on the return of the refugees and nothing on the release of the thousands of detainees was tackled.

A fundamental flaw, from the Palestinian point of view is that Palestinian rights to self-determination and statehood are not seen as absolute, but as conditional, depending on "good behaviour." These are massive and glaring faults in what even the authors of the plan call a gamble. On the other hand, the de-

fects in the agreement, according to the Israeli opposition, exist in the realms of nightmare. According to the Israeli critics, the Labour government, having "given away" "Gaza and Jericho first" will next give away Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. According to the feverish rhetoric of the Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu, the danger is not of a give away but of a Palestinian conquest of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv as part of the Arab plan "to drive the Jews into the sea" — even that state old canard has been revived.

To believe in this hysteria is to grossly underestimate the capacity of the Israeli armed forces, which, they say, are stronger than those of all the Arab states put together. A military response to these hysterics was called for.

To deflate these baseless fears, no less than 130 retired and reserve Israeli officers, all above the rank of colonel, including two lieutenant generals, that is retired chiefs of staff, and 50 major generals, put their names on an advertisement from the Israeli Committee for Peace and Security which appeared in "The Jerusalem Post" on Sept. 15, two days after the signing ceremony, which said that they supported the initiative of Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres. They went on to say that peace and security were intertwined.

These words from the Israelis who know most about war, its war heroes like Bar-Lev, Gazit, Hod, Ben-Gal and Har-Kabi, would, perhaps, convince Israelis who want peace, but do the Likud and other hard-

liners really want peace? Or do they just want to bang on to the land?

The "Gaza-Jericho first" deal certainly makes it easier for them to do so.

But as one thoughtful Palestinian analyst put it, "we could not expect anything better after losing six wars: our defeats are catching up with us."

The second strange reaction to "Gaza-Jericho first" is that while the two parties directly involved reacted with, at best, grudging acceptance and at worst, furious rejection, the outsiders not directly involved hailed it as a hugely positive happening: extravagantly emotional words were used like "breakthrough," a "new dawn," a "new era" and so on and so forth. This was mere media hype managed by the U.S. Thus, there was and is a wide gap between "inside" and "outside" reaction, so wide that when compared, one cannot wonder whether the same event is being referred to.

Thus, while there was a wild rejoicing on the streets of Palestinian towns, nowhere else in the Arab World was there anything comparable to the mood at the ceremony on the south lawn of the White House: not just the well-staged formal ceremonial drama but the euphoria, the hand-clapping and hand-shaking, the smiles and the occasional tears.

The U.S. had to stage this drama in order to get back into the Israel-Arab peace process, after having been deliberately excluded, not least by the Israelis, from the Israeli-PLO negotiations in Oslo.

LETTERS

History rearranged

To the Editor:

Referring to the article "U.S. asks Jordan to delete anti-Israeli items from school books" (Jordan Times, Sept. 20, 1993), I would like to make a few comments.

During the past few days the Arabs did a lot of recognising, accepting, committing, renouncing, assuring and affirming. But whatever the Arabs do, it never seems quite enough, does it? The U.S. request that Jordan make changes "in the curriculum at Jordanian schools, colleges and universities" appears at this point in time somewhat absurd. As long as Israeli children are still taught those old songs of "Eretz Israel," the Arabs have every right and reason to feel at least suspicion about Israel's intentions. As long as the state of war between the Jewish state and Jordan is not ended by a formal peace treaty, the Jewish state remains "the Jewish enemy." And as long as Israel does not return one inch of occupied Arab land to its rightful owner, it is an "usurper of Arab lands".

This is not calling Israel names, these are historical facts. No doubt though, the curricula on both sides have to be changed. And they eventually will be, just as they were, for example, in Germany and France after World War II. But this change has to be brought about by the concerned peoples themselves. They have to decide and agree upon what they will teach their future generations about each other and about their past.

The bold attempt to rearrange the history of one side to the advantage of the other will not lead to peace. If the issue is the mere pacification of the Middle East, imposing all kinds of Semitic, real and lasting peace between the troubled and hurting peoples of the Middle East, then there is more required than the imposing of measures an outsider to the region considers as the confidence-building.

Who ever wants to broker real peace in the Middle East has to be honest, but also patient, and most of all sensitive to the pain on both sides. The fact that the Arabs do not talk much about their pain does not mean that they do not feel it.

Elinor Kaiser-Mohammed,
P.O. Box 540383,
Abu Nuseir.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

By Leon Barkho
Reuters
BAGHDAD — In ancient times the Babylonians of southern Iraq tried to build a tower that reached the sky. But God stopped them, the Bible says, fearing that if they succeeded in building the Tower of Babel then nothing else would be impossible to them. Millennia later President Saddam Hussein is defying the legend and constructing a 70-storey skyscraper. "It will be the highest in the whole Middle East," said site engineer Mazen Abdullah. As it rises over the Baghdad skyline the tower also

Middle East's tallest tower rises from Iraq's rubble

symbolises the defiance of a nation defeated in the 1991 Gulf War and hurting from U.N. sanctions imposed as punishment for its occupation of Kuwait. "The Tower of Saddam, the tower of defiance," reads a sign halfway up the 203-metre high structure. State press and media chronicle progress almost daily. "Look if we are able to accomplish this under sanctions, just think of what we shall do when they are removed," Mr. Abdullah said. Despite the sanctions nothing has been spared in the construction effort. Hundreds of tonnes of steel and thousands of cubic metres of reinforced concrete have been fixed and poured, Mr. Abdullah said. "Everything we need is available locally," he said, adding that some of the steel is actually from stocks looted from Kuwait during the occupation. About 400 workers overseen by 12 Iraqi engineers have toiled since mid-1992 to finish the job on schedule. Mr. Abdullah hopes it will open to the public by the end of this year. The tower, set amid 10,000 square metres in the fashionable district of Ma'moun, has a futuristic look. There will be a rotating restaurant high up which can seat 200 people. "Clients will have a panoramic view of all Baghdad in 45 minutes during the day and 90 at night," said Mr. Abdullah. "There will be car parks, playgrounds and gardens all around," he said. Its main function will be as a communications centre for radio and television transmissions across the country. The tower rose from the rubble of an earlier project which was levelled by allied bombing in the early days of the Gulf War.

Nothing remained of that — even new foundations had to be built. It is the star of a huge programme of construction and irrigation projects which Iraq has launched to absorb hundreds of thousands of young men released from the army after the war. "Do not talk about cost," said Mr. Abdullah. Initial estimates had to be revised several times because of soaring inflation. The dinar fetched \$3.1 before U.N. sanctions were imposed. A dollar is now worth about 80 dinars. "So far the tower has cost tens of millions of dinars," the engineer said.

Britons laugh off their recessionary blues

By Jill Serjeant
Reuters
EDINBURGH — Comedy is enjoying a nationwide renaissance as Britons opt for a laugh to chase away the recessionary blues. Pubs, clubs and colleges that used to book rock bands, strippers and hold karaoke nights, are now turning to stand-up comedy and satirical revues — and there's no shortage of would-be Lenny Brunes to fill the bill. "The people who wanted to be rock stars a few years ago now want to be comedians," said Karen Koren, artistic director of Edinburgh's premier comedy venue the Gilded Balloon Theatre. Edinburgh's annual Fringe Arts Festival with its 1,235 shows over three weeks has become so dominated by comedians that it has been suggested there should be a separate comedy festival distinct from the weird and wonderful theatre, dance and music events now forced to compete with the laughter-makers. Some 19 per cent of the fringe acts come into the comedy, cabaret or revue category and the majority are professionals who no longer need a "day job" to make a decent living. London alone has more than 30 comedy venues and arts centres around the country are hiring stand-up comics where they used to book musicals and touring theatre companies. One of Britain's big tour operators has started booking the new young breed of comics for its overseas holiday hotels instead of song-and-dance variety acts. Entertainment in general suffered during the economic recession but promoters began to realise that hiring a man or woman with a microphone was considerably cheaper than footing the bill for stage sets, costumes, expensive lighting and large casts. They didn't have to wait long for the audiences to come flooding back. "People have been in the doldrums politically and economically. Comedy is king and at the end of the day it cheers people up. Some people say it's the new rock 'n' roll," said Richard Bucknall, agent for some of Britain's rising stars. Edinburgh offers comedy to suit every taste at almost every hour of the day — from the deadpan and the cynical to the political, the anarchic and the outrageous women getting their own back after years of mother-in-law jokes. "Comedy has really come

Americans know their country by their writers

By Nita Lelyveld
The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — The craggy New England of Robert Frost, William Faulkner's sultry, backwoods south, the wide open western spaces of Zane Grey — writers have always helped Americans define the land in which they live. To illustrate that idea, the Library of Congress has pulled together a rich mixture of photographs, manuscripts, maps and first editions that takes visitors on a trip across America's literary landscape. The original idea was to showcase the library's collection of literary maps, which point out where writers lived and worked. But the library has started with something small and added treasure after treasure from its vast holdings. Take the orange-cardboard-covered spiral notebook that contains the first draft, in pencil, of Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood*. "The Village of Holcomb," he writes in teeny-tiny, immaculate script. "stands on the high wheat plains of western Kansas, a lonesome area other Kansans call 'out there.'" In red ink, Walt Whitman traces the paths of his journeys across the Great Lakes on a map, and describes his travels in a letter to a friend. Another map shows the fictional world of Yoknapatawpha County, the setting for novels like *The Hamlet* and *Absalom, Absalom!* It was drawn in pen and ink by the author of those novels, William Faulkner. On lined paper, Zane Grey matter-of-factly outlines one of his many Western novels: U.P. Railroads. He charts out a list of "themes," including "daring adventures — hazardous trips — great conflicts." In cases throughout the exhibit are first editions of American classics, including Mark Twain's *Roughing It*, Richard Wright's *Black Boy*, and Walden by Henry David Thoreau. "I had never been away from home and that word 'travel' had a seductive charm for me," Twain wrote in *Roughing It*. "I dreamed all night about deserts, and silver bars." In the words of writers like Twain — displayed throughout the exhibit — there is a sense of excitement and adventure, a sense that the country is still ripe for discovery. Jack Kerouac in *On The Road*, writes of "all that raw land that rolls in one unbelievable bulge over to the west coast, and all that road going, all the people dreaming in the immensity of it." "In the United States," writes Gertrude Stein, "there is more place where nobody is than where anybody is. That is what makes America what it is." Particular regions of the country come alive, too, in the words of many of the writers featured in "Language Of The Land." In neat script on yellow legal paper, William Styron describes the "tobacco factories with their ever present haze of acrid sweet dust" in the fictional town of Port Warwick — based on Newport News, Va. — where his novel — *Lie Down In Darkness* — is set. Sarah Orne Jewett writes of the rocky coast of Maine, where "all the weather-beaten houses...face the sea apprehensively, like the women who live in them." Of Arkansas, Maya Angelou writes: "The sullen earth is much too red for comfort." True to its journeying theme, the exhibit, "Language Of The Land: Journeys Into Literary America," will hit the road itself this month. A travelling version will discuss the country through at least 1995.



JOURNALISTS IN HIGH PLACES: Journalists, always frantically racing for scoops while also trying to meet deadlines and, in the case of television crews, competing for satellite feed time, usually count their blessings if a press conference or meeting at the Royal Court starts only one or two hours later than scheduled. Last week carried mixed blessings for two different groups of journalists. But it would have been all perfect had the two groups switched places. The gathering of prominent journalists who met with His Majesty King Hussein last Saturday, and who were kept waiting for two and a half hours before the meeting began, would have loved being in the shoes of a CNN (Cable News Network) crew who had interviewed the monarch the Wednesday before; just in fact as much as the latter would have also liked to be the media representatives during the Saturday encounter. The CNN crew had counted that His Majesty would be late for the appointment with them, since he usually has to give priority to handling the affairs of state, so they took their time in setting up shop — cameras, microphones and all. But to their complete surprise, the King showed up exactly on time — well, just before the CNN guys could hook up their audio system properly for the question-and-answer session. While the interview was indeed shown on CNN, albeit in shortened version due to the sound quality, it took Jordanian expertise to save the day for everyone. Jordan Television engineers did everything technologically possible to improve the quality of the sound, and they managed to air most (if not all) of it in good time.

Genesis of a concept

Palestinian Autonomy: Self-Government And Peace

By Harvey Sicherman
Westview Press, Oxford 1993
When the Arabs and Israelis gathered in Madrid in October 1991, in a blaze of publicity and high expectations, it was hard to resist the exhilarating feeling that we were witnessing the start of a new era in Arab-Israeli relations. That feeling, which brought thousands of Palestinians onto the streets of the occupied territories, waving olive branches and treating their delegates like conquering heroes, was of course quick to dissipate. Little changed on the ground and Yitzhak Shamir was still in charge of the most right-wing government in Israel's history. Many Israelis experienced their own moment of euphoria seven months later, when Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party trounced Shamir's Likud in national elections. A right-wing cabinet was soon replaced by one which contained ministers who had advocated Palestinian statehood. Again, it was a time of heightened anticipation. A bloody year later, Rabin's government had sealed off the occupied territories and the army was once again killing Palestinian children with alarming regularity. But the fiftieth anniversary of the process, and the violence which surrounds it, should not blind us to what is going on. As Harvey Sicherman points out, Palestinian autonomy will not be an end in itself, but "an Israeli mandate for the emerging Arab state of Palestine." This is of course a notion which the Palestinians cling to and about which the Israeli government — and Israelis in general — are profoundly apprehensive. And it is this meeting of hopes and fears that tension and violence breed. Harvey Sicherman says the emotional barriers to an eventual accommodation "should not be underestimated." The overriding interest of the parties at this relatively early stage, he suggests, is not to fix the final status, but to reach a point beyond "the terrors of the status quo." Sicherman's book is not about the emotions and terrors of the Arab-Israeli conflict, but an account of the genesis of the concept of autonomy, principally in the period which followed Anwar Sadat's Jerusalem visit in November 1977. As one reads this accessible story of the peace process which ensued and lasted until Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982, one is repeatedly struck by how familiar it all sounds: the shuttle diplomacy, the procedural wrangles, the debates over terminology. Much of it could easily

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describe the last two years. The all-important differences are, for the most part, not questions of nuance and modality, but the radically different environment in which the peace process takes place. The Palestinian uprising, the end of the cold war and the aftermath of Operation Desert Storm are only the most obvious changes. What Ronald Reagan's first secretary of state, Alexander Haig, called the "consensus of strategic concern" now applies more widely than it did in 1980. And perhaps most important of all, the Palestinians are involved — not just as neuters participants in someone else's scheme, but as equal partners in a process they helped to design — Middle East International.

Paul Adams

Woman of 2 worlds

A Bridge Through Time

By Laila Abou-Saif
Lawrence Hill Books, New York 1993
Besides providing us with a chronicle of her personal and professional endeavours, Laila Abou-Saif's autobiography is set against the backdrop of a fascinating period of modern Egyptian history. Subtitled "The Story Of An Arab Woman Who Defied Centuries Of Tradition" and originally published in 1985, the book retains its relevance because it illustrates the painful dilemma caused by an Egyptian woman's decision not to conform to society's expectations but, instead, to do as she wants. The result is a mixture of sorrow, fulfilment and, ultimately, disappointment. Contrary to traditional behaviour and the advice of her family, Abou-Saif determines to pursue an education and a career. At the same time, by way of compromise, she agrees to marry the man of her parents' choice. It is the late 1950s. Her studies eventually take her to the United States, where she becomes aware of a life quite different to the one she knew in Cairo. Back in Egypt, after several years in which life and ideals clash, her chosen profession, the

theatre, begins to flourish, but her marriage withers and eventually dies. She must then come to terms with an unconventional and often lonely existence. Meanwhile, in the background, she records the shifting fortunes of Nasser and Sadat, the onset of "fundamentalism," and the ongoing hostilities between Israelis and Arabs. As the years pass, she continues to find solace in her work, despite the ups and downs of government red tape. Her theatrical projects, while appearing to address the mood of the times, often seem inappropriate, which raises the question of whether it is the task of theatre to provoke or to entertain. Or to encourage revolution. As Gloria Steinem declares in her foreword, Laila Abou-Saif's deliberately feminist approach to Egyptian theatre acts as "a powerful symbol of women's efforts to rebel against patriarchy in all its cultural forms and to look at the world through our own eyes." Much of Abou-Saif's life story reads like an attempt to address a series of unresolved dilemmas, such as the conflict between her apparent Westernisation and her reality as an Egyptian woman. She eventually opts for the former. Another is her fascination with rural Egypt, to which she frequently and romantically returns in the person of her grandmother, Om Abdou, around whose memory the book is constructed. Eventually, in a bid to come to terms with this aspect of her past, Abou-Saif sets off to make a film about her grandmother's village, only to encounter the barbaric horrors of female circumcision. Although eager to expose and outlaw this practice, her liberal Western approach frequently seems to have had the effect of alienating potential sympathisers. In the end, one gains a sense of a somewhat isolated individual, not at all comfortable in her time or space yet flowing over with ability, imagination and good intentions. Despite her determination, however, the dark intolerant forces of society seem set to overwhelm her. While one cannot help but admire Laila Abou-Saif, it is important to recognise that she is the product of an unusually privileged background and her introspection is a luxury very few Egyptians can afford. And while her book sounds like a cry from the heart, a call to help the Egypt that could be if only the forces of reaction would let it, one should bear in mind that alternative, equally compelling visions exist. Although occasionally lapsing into cliché and sentimentality, Dr. Abou-Saif deserves praise for her courage in putting her struggles and insecurities into words. By doing so, she has engaged both in a form of therapy and, by the way, a very particular view of a society in transition. Most importantly, she has admirably illustrated one woman's struggle to achieve an objective which sadly, in the end, seems to have eluded her — Middle East International.

Maria Holt

"SMART" BUT "SMARTING": A journalist thought it was a "smart" question to ask Yasser Arafat, at a press conference Monday: "What were the prospects for an Israeli-Palestinian confederation as opposed to a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation?" The journalist did not count on his question offending the PLO chairman, who lost no time in lashing out at the reporter for asking such a "loaded" question and being "ignorant" of the realities of the Palestinians under Israeli occupation. "It is an occupation economy with all the cruelty of occupation. Or do you think we are taking a picnic under occupation?" Arafat asked back. This short story can be looked at in two ways. One is the obvious acceptance of the fact that the question was legitimate and that the questioner indeed wanted the PLO chairman to answer on it. But then, could anyone have expected Mr. Arafat, fresh from a round of intense talks with His Majesty the King, to answer such an explosive question? Which brings us up to the second scenario: Was the question asked for the sake of asking, perhaps for the benefit of television cameras, or was it really intended to embarrass the PLO chairman? One would have thought the story stopped there, but it did not. Another journalist asked the same question, although phrased more diplomatically, during a press conference Tuesday by Arafat confidant Yasser Abed Rabbo. "Good morning," came the answer from Mr. Abed Rabbo. "You are lucky that I don't have the temper of my boss," he said, referring to Monday's encounter. However, Mr. Abed Rabbo was gracious enough to say a few more words explaining that the Palestinian psychology after decades of Israeli oppression is in no mood to accept any interaction with the Zionist ideology and, as such, a confederation with Israel was not in the cards at all.

GOOD INTENTIONS MISUNDERSTOOD: While in the area of journalism and the press, the diary is reminded that a question posed by a Jordan Times staff reporter to the Austrian president at a Royal Palace press conference three weeks ago, for some reason, was understood out of context. As far as that reporter was concerned, the question was simple and clear, its aim being to get the Austrian president to acknowledge Jordan's efforts towards democracy. "Having chaired (hosted) the international forum on human rights in Vienna two months ago, how do you see Jordan's contribution to human rights in the region, the Middle East?" This was the precise question. The Austrian president answered, as exactly expected by the questioner, by praising Jordan's human rights record and democratisation process. He even went back to the question at a different point and noted that Jordan's hosting of hundreds of thousands of refugees was another plus point in favour of the Kingdom. Sure enough, the replies added spice to an otherwise lacklustre (from a media point of view) story and made headlines not only for the Jordan Times but also for other newspapers the next day. Why that question was taken out of context and doubt was shed on the credentials of that particular reporter, we do not know. We can only guess that somebody or some people might have told others that it was another "loaded" question meant to tarnish Jordan's human rights record. This could not have been the intention at all, since the question elicited a very positive answer, which is what actually matters most in the end.

Abdullah Hasanat

Bruce Lee's early years: Cocky, philosophical, hints of stardom

By James L. Eng

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — James Demile recalls the first time he ran into Bruce Lee.

It was 1958, Asian Day on Seattle's Capitol Hill.

A frail-looking, 18-year-old Chinese kid with thick, round glasses was demonstrating martial-arts movements.

To Demile, a beefy, street-smart, 20-year-old former air force champion boxer, it didn't look like fighting.

"So I went up to him and said, 'gee, kid, that stuff looks good, but over here we're mean fighters.'"

The kid challenged Demile to try to hit him.

Demile fired a straight right. The kid parried the strike, then trapped both of Demile's arms.

"Before I knew it, boom, boom, boom he was hitting me on the head," Demile recalled. To finish it off, the kid knocked on Demile's forehead, as if to see if anyone was home.

"That's when I met Bruce Lee. And I learned humility

in about five seconds," says Demile, now a Kung-Fu grandmaster who operates a martial-arts school in north Seattle.

A decade later, Lee would go on to stardom, finding fame in Hong Kong, then in the United States as international cinema's first martial-arts box-office superstar.

But to Demile and others, it was the roughly five years Lee spent in Seattle — his late teens and early 20s — that are among his most revealing. The Seattle years, largely overlooked in the recently released movie *Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story*, are those of a brash, cocky kid who found admiration through martial arts, peace through philosophy, love by chance and, ultimately, fame through determination.

"Those were among the happiest days we spent together," says Lee's former wife, Linda, who now lives in Boise, Idaho. "Bruce loved Seattle. It was a very peaceful and uncomplicated time of his life, when life was simple and fun."

Lee was born in San Francisco in 1940, while the

Chinese Opera Troupe of which his father was a member was touring the United States. Lee spent his childhood in Hong Kong, then returned to the United States at age 18.

After a brief stay in California, he moved to Seattle, where his parents arranged for him to live with Ping and Ruby Chow.

Ping was also a member of the Hong Kong Opera Troupe and knew Lee's father. Ruby was a prominent member of Seattle's Chinese community and would later serve on the King County Council.

"Bruce was kind of like a prodigy in terms of Kung Fu. When he talked, everybody listened," says Jesse Glover, Lee's first Kung Fu student. "But when he started talking about other subjects he sounded like a typical 18-year-old."

Lee and his students opened a small martial-arts club in Chinatown, and later in the University District when he enrolled at the University of Washington. Those who knew him in

Seattle describe Lee as a bit of a showboat — a look-at-me youth who captured attention at parties and other gatherings by doing two-finger push-ups and other acrobatic feats.

Lee also had a serious side to him.

"He could tell you the raunchiest joke and the next minute he would be spouting some deep philosophy," says Taky Kimura, who became Lee's assistant instructor and his closest friend. "He was a very charismatic person."

"He would go out and find poems in Chinese and come back to the Huh (the University of Washington's (UW) Student Centre) and recite them and ask me what I thought," said Lonny Kaneko, who Lee met at the UW.

"People talk about the extroverted exterior he had, but he was also sensitive."

While at UW, Lee met and fell in love with Linda Emery, whom he would eventually marry.

"At first I thought, 'this guy is pretty cocky.' But there's a difference between being cocky and having a sense of great confidence,"

Emery says. "It was soon clear that everything he said he could do, he could do."

Emery also discovered Lee's philosophical side. "He wasn't always making jokes and goofing around. We could have long serious discussions about life."

Though he didn't excel in school, Emery says, Lee read voraciously. He was especially fond of books on Eastern philosophy, martial arts and self-improvement.

"He was very focused. That enabled him to achieve the things he did in his short life," she says.

Lee never finished college and left Seattle in 1964 for Oakland, Calif. His goal was to start a chain of martial-arts schools.

While in California, Lee was "discovered" by a television producer named William Dozier. He was cast in the short-lived series *The Green Hornet*.

Lee later was considered by Warner Bros. for the lead role in the TV series *Kung Fu*, but passed over in favour of David Carradine. Colleagues said Lee was infuri-

ated at the snub.

It wasn't until he returned to Hong Kong that he found stardom in martial-arts films.

He made just a handful and was in the midst of filming his last, *Game Of Death*, when he died July 20, 1973, in Hong Kong. The official cause of death: A brain aneurysm in the vicinity of the cerebral edema. Tabloids in Hong Kong and elsewhere raised more sensational theories, ranging from death by drugs to a murder carried out by Hong Kong gangs known as Triads.

Nearly two decades later, Lee's son, Brandon, would also die under mysterious circumstances. Brandon, 28, was filming a movie in North Carolina when he was fatally shot with a prop gun that was supposed to be loaded with blanks.

The tombstones of Bruce and Brandon stand side by side in Lake View Cemetery on Seattle's Capitol Hill. The dirt around them is well trodden — every day brings a steady trickle of friends and admirers, well-wishers and tourists.

Devout Italian designer caters for fashion-conscious priest

By Samantha Conti
Reuters

SPOLETO, Italy — Clients crossing the threshold of Massimo Sansolini's Roman studio are not the usual social butterflies fluttering around a fashion designer.

They are an odd mix of dowagers, ambassadors, wives...and loving mothers in search of the perfect outfit for their son, the priest.

Massimo Sansolini, a devout Roman Catholic who holds an honorary post at the Vatican, is Italy's only fashion designer who makes holy vestments and haute couture — expensive one-off designs made to fit the client. Mr. Sansolini says he believes his two vocations go well together, insisting fashion has always played an important role in the Roman Catholic faith.

"Beauty has always been essential to the Catholic Church," Mr. Sansolini told Reuters at his home in the Umbria region of central Italy.

Although he does not make clothes for Pope John Paul himself, Mr. Sansolini has redesigned uniforms for the Pontiff's 12 "Sedari", who escort heads of state at the Vatican, and is the Holy See's self-styled fashion watchdog.

In 1971, Mr. Sansolini — who is one of the Sedari — restyled the uniforms which had not been touched since the 16th century. They are now grey and violet to match the decor in a Vatican hall.

He takes his job seriously and says he has lived "the most touching moments of his life" serving Popes. "But Mr. Sansolini admits that, while working, he keeps his

eyes peeled for fashion peccadillos.

In nearly 30 years he has spent serving three Popes, Mr. Sansolini said he had taken careful note of style gaffes committed inside the Vatican.

"I have seen a museum of horrors," he said. "Each time I see an improperly dressed guest I let out a silent scream."

He described, but refused to name, heads of state who betrayed all sense of propriety at a papal audience by wearing jackets unbuttoned in the front or with vents in the back.

Only a white tie and black tailcoat were acceptable, he said.

Mr. Sansolini said he would soon publish a book, "Io, Sedario", which takes a behind-the-scenes look at the Vatican and its visitors. He himself spends only part of the week there.

When he is not serving the Pope and scrutinising heads of state for sartorial slip-ups, he works in his Rome studio designing clothing for priests and society ladies.

The overlap between altar wear and evening wear is clear.

Mr. Sansolini loves jewelled crosses. At a party at his home in Italy's summer music capital Spoleto, women dressed in his designs wore large jewelled crosses as earrings or hanging from the neck.

He insisted these were just crosses — not crucifixes — and therefore not a symbol of the Roman Catholic faith.

Some of his clients disagreed. "I am Catholic and am so proud to be wearing this cross," said one woman dressed in a Sansolini evening gown.

Copenhagen revives historic fortress

By Adam Hannestad
Reuters

TREKRONER, Denmark — Copenhagen has begun preparations for its 1996 stint as cultural capital of Europe with a "post-modern picnic" — a floating rock concert at an 18th century island fortress.

Almost 200 years after the fortress of Trekroner, guarding the entrance of Copenhagen's harbour, was taken by Lord Nelson's fleet, it was besieged again by the British.

This time, although the noise was as loud as the admiral's cannons, the Brit-

ish were on a peaceful mission to inaugurate Copenhagen's newest tourist attraction.

Three thousand jubilant Danes — committed to a frenzied 12-hour dance from dusk to dawn — took part in the Aug. 28-29 celebration, described by visiting foreign rock magazine writers as a new concept in rock.

Three British bands, The Orb, System 7 and Dreadzone, used a spectacular light show on a floating stage in the water surrounded by the U-shaped island fortress.

The concert was part of the first annual Copenhagen Wä-

ter Festival, a 10-day celebration centred on Denmark's largest harbour and featuring concerts and plays for all audiences — including those more inclined to Handel than "hip hop".

For Trekroner, the concert heralded a new era as the city's newest tourist resort to be used for boat outings and musical picnics.

Copenhagen authorities hope to inaugurate it officially in 1994 as part of their preparations for the city's year as cultural capital of Europe.

At Trekroner, young and not-so-young spectators

crowded the piers, dancing so hard they sent shivers through the concrete foundations of the fortress.

On the lookout posts once used to scout for enemy vessels, others gathered to take in the latest in techno, ambient, house and new age music while viewing the scene from above and the Copenhagen skyline behind.

The casemates — corridors built for housing soldiers — contained buffets, beer stands and multi-coloured light shows.

"It's fantastic," shouted Christine Moeller of the organising team through the

noise. "It's all we had hoped for."

The volunteer organisers, young people from Copenhagen's musical underground, had to plan everything from power supply to the amplifiers, boats to the audience and even scuba divers as lifeguards if any over-enthusiastic dancer should make a wrong step.

Ms. Moeller said they were not put off by the work and hoped to do more floating concerts.

Trekroner, built in 1787, was intended to guard Copenhagen's harbour and preventing enemy ships from

getting within firing range of the city.

It was not completed when Nelson's fleet fell upon Napoleon's Danish allies in 1801 and it proved no match for the British guns.

The fortress was finished in the 1860s but never played the role intended for it. When Nazi Germany's forces sailed into Copenhagen in 1940, Trekroner was used by the Danish Navy as a picnic site and outdoor theatre.

Since then, the island and fortress have been deserted, a symbol of Denmark's past glory as a European sea power.

How to own your favourite old master

By Clare Pedrick

MILAN, Italy — Daniele Gallazzi's "Nuova Arte" gallery in Milan is an art-lover's paradise — and an art dealer's nightmare. Its walls are studied with the world's most famous masterpieces, from Rembrandt to Kandinsky and from Tiziano to Brueghel. Gallazzi has Toulouse Lautrec's *Moulin Rouge* and Canaletto's *View Of The Grand Canal*. In one corner is Monet's *Regatta at Argenteuil*. A few feet away hangs Andy Warhol's portrait of Marilyn Monroe. There is a Madonna by Raffaello and Van Gogh's *Sunflowers*. It is a bit like cram-

ming the cream of the world's major art museums into one small space. Just one problem — all of them are fakes.

Gallazzi shudders at the word fake. He prefers to call his paintings "signed copies." The 44-year-old gallery owner, who gave up a career in the advertising business to indulge in his passion for art, claims his unusual collection is an antidote to the spiralling prices on the legitimate market. "We have changed the rules of the game," he said. "Who has not dreamed of owning a masterpiece instead of going to see it at the museum? Our idea is to fight the concept that beautiful objects should be reserved for a

chosen few."

Drawing heavily on the talents and techniques of Italy's fertile artistic underworld, Gallazzi claims high-quality reproductions can be an art form in their own right. "Art forgery is as old as art itself," he said. "We are proposing an old game in a new guise — the signed copy."

Every painting sold by Gallazzi comes with a certificate of non-authenticity, discreetly reminding the buyer not to try to sell it as an original. "I explain to everyone who comes here that the product they are buying is only three months old, even though it may look much older," he said. "If a client then goes over the road to an antique dealer and buys an old frame and tries to sell it as a really old painting, then that's his business."

Almost all the 30 or so artists working for Gallazzi are ex-rogues from the flourishing counterfeiting business. The gallery's origins go back to an encounter with Florentine painter Tullio Bartoli, a master-forgery who was in trouble with the law because some of his paintings had turned up on the art circuit. "He was an astonishingly good artist — his De Chiricos and Rosaios were so convincing that gallery owners were easily taken in," said Gallazzi. "I was so impressed I gave him a hand to get out of this ghetto of forgery and now he works for us."

Bartoli and the other painters used by Gallazzi can now ply their trade peacefully without fear of unexpected visits from the police. They are backed up by a network of specialists in the ageing business — old hands who know all the tricks of the trade, and can add a few centuries to a freshly painted canvas by simulating layers of smoke and reproducing the "craquelure" or cracked effect found on real old masters. "They work a kind of alchemy in their workshops," said Gallazzi. "They used to do it to hoodwink people.

Now they do it for us."

Gallazzi's team of artists can turn their hand to almost anything, though most of them have their specialties. "We do everything, from Caravaggios to frescoes, from Picassos to the Impressionists, trompe l'oeil, you name it and we'll do it," said Gallazzi. "Some of our artists are better at Impressionism. Others are specialists in the 19th century English school. They live all over the country; we even have a couple abroad. I know exactly where to go when I get a commission."

Clients of the Nuova Arte Gallery choose from a huge pile of glossy art books stacked high on a table. Some of them want a copy of their favourite painting to hang on the wall of their living room. "A client comes in and says 'I want a nice Monet', so we sit down and choose one together," said Gallazzi. Other people who come to the gallery already own the original, but want a copy done for security reasons. "They put the real one in the bank, or they sell it," said the Milanese gallery owner.

Gallazzi also sells to hotels and conference centres who want a prestige painting without spending a fortune. And he hires out masterpieces to theatres and movie-makers to use as props or backdrops. "We also do paintings in the style of the school of established masters," said Gallazzi. "The result is an original, with a 'gap' of several centuries." Some clients commission portraits in the style of an artist they admire, for the pleasure of seeing themselves converted into a long-necked Modigliani or a cubist Picasso.

Prices vary according to the size and difficulty of the subject. An outlay of between 300,000 lire (\$215) and 3 million lire (\$2,150) will buy a Gauguin, a Matisse or a De Chirico. The older styles tend to be more expensive, starting at around 2 million lire (\$1,400) and rising as high as 25 million lire

(\$17,850) for a particularly complex piece. A Caravaggio will set you back about 10 million (\$7,000). The most expensive painting currently on show at the gallery's permanent display is a vast oil inspired by the 19th century British artist Sir Laurence Alma-Tadema, an extravaganza of intricately painted flowers and a riot of colour, which has a price tag of 20 million lire (\$14,000).

The Impressionists are the biggest sellers. Says Gallazzi: "That's because they are easy on the eye." He also sells a lot of still-lives, especially vases of flowers copied from the 19th century Flemish school. "They are not associated with any one particular painter, but they are very pleasing things to have hanging on one's walls," said Gallazzi. He himself regards his gallery's finest works as the 16th century Flemish school and the 17th century Venetian school.

Gallazzi attributes his gallery's success to the fact that more people want to decorate their homes with beautiful things, and have the means to do so, up to a point. "Back in Renaissance times, only nobles or rich merchants could afford to commission paintings. The rest lived in very modest surroundings," he said. "Now, even a clerk or a labourer wants to furnish his house or apartment nicely, and there is simply not enough to go round."

At the beginning, the Art establishment did not take kindly to Gallazzi's unorthodox gallery, partly because he himself hailed from an advertising agency, and partly because he was dabbling in a field which in the past has lost them a great deal of money.

The booming art forgery business costs dealers millions of dollars each year. "At first, they were suspicious. They thought there must be something fishy about us," said Gallazzi. "Then gradually they began to accept that I was doing it because I enjoyed it. I was selling copies for 10 million



Daniele Gallazzi, seen here in front of a copy of *The Fourth State*, employs artists who can turn out "master" copies of famous artwork

lire (\$7,000) when I could easily have passed them off as originals."

"In our small way, we are fighting the forgery business," he added. "We want to clean up the art market, which is riddled with counterfeits. Our idea is to give an official stamp to copies. If you bring forgery out into the open, there will be no market for it."

In common with the art dealers, the general public's attitude towards reproductions is changing, it seems. Gallazzi's first clients used to pass off as originals the paintings they bought for their homes. Now, they are more likely to bring their friends to his gallery so that they too can have the painting of their dreams. Suddenly, owning a fake has become chic. "Things have changed. It is no longer considered gauche to possess a copy," said Gallazzi.

"These days, people accept that it isn't scandalous to go to the theatre wearing fake jewels and leave the real ones in the bank. It's more or less the same thing. Having a copy in your house of the painting you always wanted to own is not just acceptable. It's considered good form. A lot of my clients have the

money to buy the original but don't want to spend 150 million lire (\$110,000) on a painting. They know they can come to us and get it for 7 or 8 million lire (\$5,000 or 6,000)."

The argument for copies as opposed to originals has also gained ground in some art circles as an answer to the growing threat posed by vandals, and, more recently, terrorists. The bomb attack last month on Florence's Uffizi Museum sparked a fierce debate about the wisdom of leaving irreplaceable masterpieces exposed to danger. Already, dozens of Renaissance statues in Florence's Boboli Gardens have been substituted with convincing plaster reproductions, to ward against damage by pollution, graffiti and chisel-wielding maniacs.

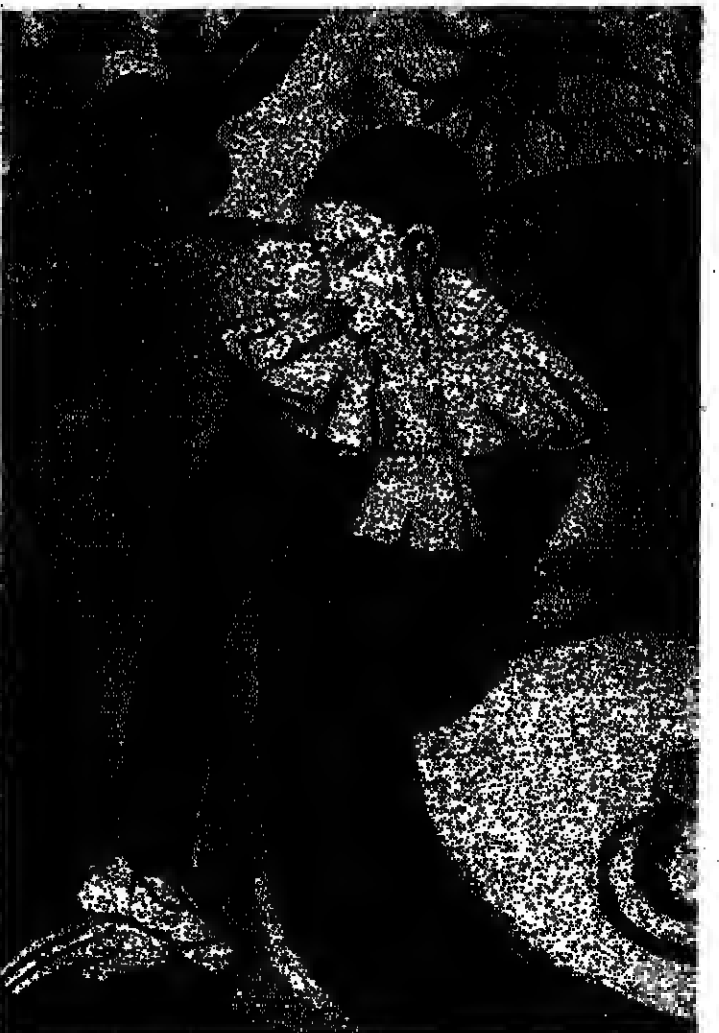
Strangely enough, Gallazzi firmly believes copies should be barred from museums. "A museum should be the one place where it is possible to see the real thing," he said. "But copies should be used to send round the world, to entice people to come and see the originals."

With just such an idea in mind, Gallazzi commissioned a series of classic Italian masterpieces — Leonardo Da

Vinci's *Last Supper*, a Piero Della Francesca and a Caravaggio — to hang at strategic points in Milan during the 1990 Italian World Cup soccer celebrations. The aim, he says, was to jog people's memory to the fact that the real versions of all these treasures can be seen in Milan's own museums.

With 12 years experience behind him, Gallazzi says he wants to tackle "bigger and bigger challenges." In terms of size, they don't come much bigger than the 19th century Italian artist Pellizza da Volpedo's famous *Fourth State*. Measuring a massive 6 by 3 metres, this is the gallery's most imposing work to date. The real version is hanging in Milan's Museum of Modern Art.

Gallazzi's own favourites are the Cezannes and the Italian Renaissance paintings. He also has a certain weakness for the 16th century Flemish masters. "Almost every day, I develop a passion for a different period. At the beginning, it was the Impressionists," he said. "Every so often I take myself off to the Brera Museum here in Milan to bring myself down to earth. And I tell myself — these are the originals. Ours are just copies." — World News Link



Copies such as this Picasso are gaining in popularity; some people replace genuine items with fakes for security reasons, while others enjoy a taste of the real thing

India is waking up to major AIDS epidemic

By Partha S. Banerjee

CALCUTTA — The epidemic is as yet invisible. Out of a population of 860 million, only 336 cases of full-blown AIDS have so far been reported from India. But by the year 2000, the World Health Organisation (WHO) — predicts India will have more carriers of HIV, the AIDS virus, than any other nation.

According to the Indian Health Organisation (IHO), a non-government body, the number of Indians infected by that year could exceed 20 million and perhaps reach 50 million. "India will be devastated," predicted Dr. J. S. Gilada, the country's leading AIDS campaigner who founded IHO.

Already, over a million Indians are believed to carry the virus. That is almost one-twelfth of the global total, and about as many people as in the U.S. Only about 12,000 HIV positive cases (people carrying the virus) have actually been detected so far in India, but that relatively low figure is perhaps more a reflection of the scarcity of AIDS blood testing kits, which are currently available in only a handful of medical facilities in the country. But statistics from even those few testing centres paint an ominous picture of the epidemic's silent advance: From 2.5 per 1,000 people tested in 1986, the seropositivity rate climbed to 5.2 in 1991 and last year hit almost 8 per 1,000.

Despite those frightening figures, most Indians are still blissfully ignorant of the disease. There is little public understanding of how AIDS is spread and how it kills. To most Indians, the word evokes much greater fear than AIDS. "For six months I have worked on a book on AIDS in India," wrote Arvind Kala, a journalist and author, in a recent newspaper article. "And I am appalled by how little people know about this epidemic." According to a recent IHO study, only 20

per cent of urban Indians had heard of AIDS, and five per cent vaguely knew of its causes and prognosis. Last year, a matrimonial advertisement in a Bombay newspaper seeking a bride for a U.S.-educated MBA (master of business degree) "having HIV positive" got 85 responses; none of the respondents seemed to know what HIV positive meant, some taking it as an educational qualification.

If most Indians are still ignorant about the epidemic in the making, the government in New Delhi is yet to get serious about it. As elsewhere in this part of the world (with the exception of Thailand), little has been done to check the spread of AIDS or build public awareness. India's state-controlled television network, which often telecasts social welfare programming, has touched on AIDS only rarely. Most blood banks still do not screen blood for HIV and the great majority of doctors still cannot recognise symptoms of the disease.

Last year, World Bank funds for combating the disease went partly unused, with red tape bogging down the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), the federal agency set up in June 1992 to fight the epidemic. As Dr. Abhijit Mitra, who works among prostitutes in Calcutta, observed: "Tackling AIDS is still nowhere in the government's list of priorities."

One reason for India's indifference to the AIDS threat is its invisibility, the fact that so few people carrying the virus have actually developed the disease. AIDS came late to India, and because of HIV's long incubation period — from three to 15 years — the disease is yet to take its toll. Of the 336 full-blown cases registered, some 60 per cent began showing symptoms only over the year. Few Indians have seen how HIV ravages its victims, fewer still realise how expensive treatment can be, even if it's only

to delay the victim's death.

If treatment is available, that is. Outside the major cities and industrial centres, medical facilities in India are critically poor, and some of the city hospitals have overcrowded, unclean wards, equipment that works fitfully, and rude, insensitive medical staff. According to a recent World Bank study, most Indian states have less than one hospital bed for 1,000 people, which is less than what is available in sub-Saharan Africa. Indian doctors shudder to think of the situation when the AIDS epidemic actually surfaces in a few years' time. And social scientists wonder about the impact of the disease on India's conservative, tradition-bound society in which sex-related disease carries a terrible stigma.

As in other Asian countries and Africa, AIDS is spreading largely through heterosexual contact, with 41.5 per cent of seropositive cases resulting from it. Homosexual contact is responsible for a mere 0.27 per cent of infections, while blood transfusion accounts for over 17 per cent of cases, and intravenous drug use — with infected addicts sharing needles — another 15 per cent. Sexual promiscuity being still largely taboo in Indian society, it is the teeming red-light zones that are serving as epicentres of the silent epidemic.

There is no reliable estimate of the number of prostitutes, but red-light districts are proliferating in most cities, and the brothels in large urban centres like Bombay and Calcutta house between 50,000 and 100,000 women; it is estimated that India could have over 5 million prostitutes. A large majority of their clients comprise poor migrant labourers — coolies, rickshaw-pullers, mill workers — who typically leave their families back in the villages, visiting home once a year, for a few weeks. It is during those annual visits that HIV percolates into the backwoods of India;



Experts estimate that a million Indians carry the AIDS virus. Here

a doctor examines a patient at an AIDS clinic in Calcutta's red-light district

infected traditional monogamous home-bound rural housewives and their offspring with the deadly disease. Nobody quite knows how deep the AIDS infection has penetrated into rural India where 70 per cent of the country's population live and where medical facilities are often virtually non-existent.

Experts are also concerned about the spread of AIDS in the smaller towns and cities through blood transfusion. Over one-third of the collection in India's 1,000-odd blood banks comes from professional donors, often poor, homeless people who sell their blood to eke out a living. Now that the banks in the bigger cities are refusing HIV-contaminated blood, many of the professional donors who carry the virus have migrated to the smaller towns where screening is still not carried out, despite it being made mandatory in March 1989.

Lack of funds

"One reason blood remains unscreened in most small-town banks is the lack of funds and technical expertise," said Dr. Kanak Mukherjee of the School of Tropical Medicine in Calcutta. "The government has begun issuing rapid diagnostic kits to blood banks but most of

them still remain unequipped. The government has also set up five special AIDS wards in the largest state-run hospitals of Bombay, New Delhi, Calcutta, Madras and at the Christian Medical College in Vellore, near Madras, considered one of India's best facilities. Not all the wards, however, are functioning. At the Calcutta Medical College, the six-bed ward, though inaugurated more than a year ago, remains locked. At least one AIDS patient referred to the hospital was turned back.

The patient, a 51-year-old woman who was apparently infected during a kidney transplant operation last year and is yet to show AIDS symptoms, had earlier been refused post-surgery treatment at Vellore's Christian Medical College and at a well-known Calcutta hospital. Indeed, most Indian medical staff stay clear of AIDS carriers, even when the disease has not surfaced. In New Delhi's All-India Institute of Medical Sciences, doctors have refused to treat HIV positive patients even if they came for an illness unrelated to AIDS; one woman was abandoned on the delivery table when medical staff learned she was infected.

If doctors shun AIDS cases, society ostracises them. Entire families turn

outcasts overnight. In the southern state of Kerala, the family of Parayil Yohannan has had no visitors since their daughter, a nurse, became ill with AIDS. Yohannan sold milk for a living, but no-one except a close friend who runs a tea shop now buys from him.

Fear of contamination from the "dirty" disease is different from fear of the disease itself. Most Indians — those who have heard of AIDS, that is — still believe they cannot catch it, that it is a white man's ailment. In the red-light areas of Calcutta, Bombay and other cities, non-governmental organisations with administrative help and international funding and supervision are trying to reverse that belief. In Bombay, which has the country's highest number of AIDS cases, teams of social workers from IHO under I.S. Gilada visit brothels to educate the mostly unlettered prostitutes — some 30 per cent of whom are believed to be infected — about HIV and safe sex and distribute condoms. IHO has also recently set up an AIDS counselling centre in Bombay.

Gilada, who charges the government and the medical community with playing down the AIDS threat in India, met with some resistance when he launched his campaign but can now boast

of considerable success in some portions of the city. It is in Calcutta, however, that the safe-sex campaign has met with the most encouraging response. "From just over one per cent, we have been able to increase condom use among the sex workers here to at least 60 per cent," said Dr. Amitabha Das, coordinator of an AIDS awareness project which was launched a year ago under WHO supervision and is run by the government's All-India Institute of Medical Sciences and Public Health in association with a non-governmental organisation.

Dr. Das operates from a seedy two-room hut at the end of a narrow alley in Sonagachi, Calcutta's famed red-light district. The hut serves as the project hub. Besides housing a crowded makeshift clinic for sexually-transmitted diseases, it is the starting point every morning for several groups of women in saris and green coats who fan out into Sonagachi's labyrinth of congested lanes with gaudily-dressed prostitutes. All groups include at least one "peer educator" — a retired or practicing prostitute — and are armed with bags of condoms and an easy-to-follow illustrated flip-book on AIDS and how it can be prevented.

"Initially, it was terrible. It seemed impossible," said Kamala Mukherjee, 45, a member of one of the groups, recalling her experiences when they began work in Sonagachi. "The choicest incentives were hurled on us when we tried to enter the brothels, the pimps and madams thought we had come to wreck their business, sometimes we feared violence." But Mukherjee and her comrades persisted, unfazed by the threats and abuse. What finally did the trick was persuading local political bosses to influence gangsters who control the brothels, and, most importantly, the deployment of peer educators.

"When the sex workers saw senior members of their own profession among us," said Nayanita Sarkar, 27, a

psychology graduate student who leads one of the groups, "They finally began to trust us. Today, we are like sisters to them. After we finish explaining the flip-book and fielding questions on AIDS and distributing condoms, the girls tell us about their joys and sorrows and their personal problems." For the peer educators, the work is like a ritual of absolution. "I don't do this for the money which is only 25 rupees per day (about 80 cents), something that I can earn from a customer for half an hour," said Jayanti Hazra, 26. "This work means much more to me...to my soul."

The campaign, which is being funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development, has succeeded in spreading AIDS consciousness among virtually all the 5,000-odd prostitutes in Sonagachi. 85 per cent of whom are illiterate. But despite the free condom distribution and AIDS education, not all the women insist on safe sex for fear of losing customers. "The pretty girls can afford to be inflexible, but those who do not get too many clients, they can't," explained Hazra. "They tell us AIDS means sure death," said one prostitute. "But if we don't get to cat, that means sure death too."

"We may have been more successful than elsewhere in India," Dr. Das said. "But the real solution to the problem is a massive national AIDS awareness campaign." Last month, a visiting World Bank official announced a \$90 million interest-free loan for AIDS awareness and prevention programmes; the Indian government has already sanctioned \$10 million for the programmes. The National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) has chalked out ambitious plans to check the epidemic, including safe-sex messages on television and radio. "Our work has just begun. We are getting our act together," NACO Project Director P.R. Dasgupta recently announced. Better late than never — World News Link.

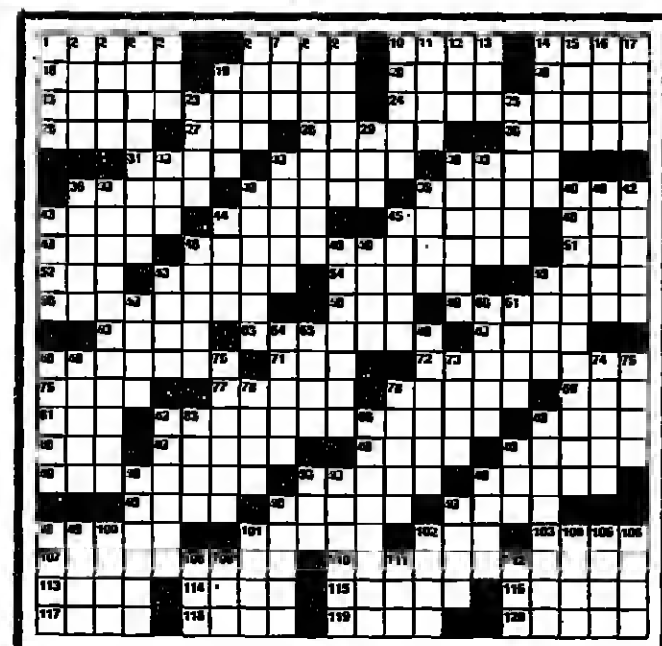
WEEKEND CROSSWORD

D-DAY
By Thomas W. Schler

ACROSS
1 Mike Richard and
6 Thin man's dog
10 Not yet up
14 Use
18 Breadfruit
20 Argentinian port
21 Helios' wife
22 Star of "Tomb"
24 "Golden Girl"
26 Volcanic cone
27 Madonna's org.
28 The end
30 Has no opening for
31 Word of admonition
32 Stroke and's neck
34 50-ry pans

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3 Actor Elmer
4 Bull sound
5 Crying
6 T.A.E. name
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100 "Tomb" film



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Isn't it strange that "orange" doesn't rhyme with "grange," "mange," or any other word?
2. Chief chef has sign of relief in belief rough chief has brought to grief.
3. Big stockyard employed hounded city slicker as temporary cowboy.
4. Ball to very pretty white lay peters which make people hasten better-shelter to shelter almost every season.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. JAK KHAYE VJ PTYUQTYA CIEYA CEHU
PTDDAY IE HVIHA EBU QTKFZTBY.

—By Earl Ireland

2. PFEOTCF LABE BIF LTTY RBQ WICATW
TW WBCDYF TWZYDPTW OFIOYF TR

—By Gordon Miller

3. IUQVABQY RLCK OBBR EAGHTCOABQ
BQ RLBYBI ICEXKCL UBL LBYBI AGQT
PGTQO CCX BG IG U XUEKLC FBY.

—By Rita Salvato

4. YAVET BX W KPZ ZWOTAZ GV ETA XWZ
FAKE FWK ZPHAY WK WV BOOGYAVEW
WOOGYAVE.

—By Denise H. McGee

Diagramless

19 x 19, By Frances Burton

ACROSS
1 "Honest —"
4 Sick or shot
beginning
5 Farm measure
6 Shipyard letter
8 Hurt
10 Sun-dried brick
14 Greek
15 Plover
16 Friend of Pythias
17 Nescie
18 Participle
19 Top — (comic
bowling)

DOWN
11 Coal weight
12 Literary collection
13 Fool
14 Lid
15 CIA's ancestor
16 Challenged
17 International Island
24 Fiction
28 Newswoman
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20 Lob or mob and
21 Golf
22 Tourneys
23 Golf of war
24 Draftman org.
25 Actor Beaty
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27 Scramble
28 Comic strip
29 Carline
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31 WWII site
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33 Give up, as
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34 Students
35 "Miserable!"
36 Poems
37 Stock of works
38 Hurricane center
41 Elipse
42 Old car
43 Disgrace

44 Russian leader
45 Meyers city
46 City on Lake
Ontario
47 Used a chair
48 Musical symbol
49 Actress Jessica
50 Hurricane center
51 Guevara
52 Cornelian
53 Breakfast cereal

54 Apportion
55 Catherine item
56 Damp
57 City in Arizona
58 Frontiersman
59 Daniel
60 Piece of
innocence
61 Way of "King
kong"
62 Bally sound
63 Cornelian
64 Johnson
65 Modern: prof.

Families to sue over hormone therapy timebomb

By Anne Senior
Reuter

LONDON — Navy engineer Patrick Baldwin, a healthy father of two daughters, began to suspect he was ill when he started losing his balance. Then he lost control of his limbs and went blind. Just over a year after the illness started he was dead at the age of 30.

Baldwin was the victim of the degenerative brain disorder Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) — the human equivalent of bovine spongiform encephalopathy or "mad cow disease" — and linked to a growth treatment using human hormones.

In the course of his illness, Baldwin's parents discovered their son was not an isolated sufferer. Others, who like Patrick had been injected with hormones as children to spur their growth, also contracted the fatal and incurable dementia through their treatment.

The disease is caused by a so-called "slow virus" which can incubate for decades in a carrier and which appears to have lain in some of the tissue collected from dead bodies for use in a programme to correct stunted growth in children.

The treatment, begun in 1959 and given to nearly 1,900 children, was halted in 1985 after recipients first died of CJD, and scientists have since developed synthetic hormones to replace those extracted from human pituitary glands.

The Baldwins and other families plan to sue the British Department of Health and a Medical Research Council involved in the treatment, alleging the risk was known long before the first

deaths occurred and that officials were negligent.

Legal action is also envisaged or under way in France, Australia and the United States over similar hormone treatment, said the families' lawyer David Body. In Australia, other hormones from the pituitaries were used to treat infertility in women, some of whom have since died of CJD.

"Litigation is the last resort," said Mr. Body. "It's more in sorrow than in anger that litigation has been contemplated."

He said "substantial" damages would be sought after an unsuccessful campaign to make the government pay compensation or order an inquiry into the statistically spectacular cluster of nine British CJD deaths among hormone-treated youngsters.

Reported cases of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease are extremely rare, with only 48 overall in Britain in the past year.

Baldwin, who received the hormones as a teenager, wasted away in just 16 months, dying in December 1992.

Many victims succumb earlier. None survive the disease, which was identified by two German psychiatrists as typically developing after middle age.

"Sometimes we were up four times a night with him. It was pitiful actually what he went through, a healthy lad like that," said Patrick's father Noel in an interview.

At the end Baldwin was paralysed and tube-fed but his father was relieved he had a "comfortable" death surrounded by his family. Noel said he felt duty-bound to take legal action on behalf of his son's daughters Zara, seven, and Nicola, six.

"I think there is a great cover-up going on," he said, adding he hoped an inquest into his son's death in November would put pressure on health officials to provide more information about the programme and the way it was regulated.

A health spokeswoman said the deaths were a tragedy but denied newspaper reports that health authorities had been lax.

"It is a tragedy that a treatment that was considered to be safe... should now be linked with a fatal disease, but as the treatment conformed with the best-known scientific and clinical practice of the time we do not accept that there are grounds for awarding financial compensation," she said.

Doctors were first advised to avoid using organs showing signs of "primary disease" in 1958 and from 1981 explicit guidelines were issued instructing mortuary workers not to use people who had died from CJD as pituitary donors.

British newspaper reports have claimed that the advice was not passed on to some mortuary workers who even collected pituitaries from mental patients certified as dying of CJD.

The risk of eventually con-

tracting CJD, for which there is no diagnostic test, now hangs over all the surviving hormone recipients and their families, causing severe distress, said Tam Fry of the Child Growth Hormone Foundation, an advisory body.

He said two marriages had been called off because of the fear of bereavement and that some women given the therapy were tormented by thoughts of leaving their children motherless.

There was a sense of grievance that the authorities took years to contact those affected despite a remote danger of them transmitting the virus through organ or blood donation.

Some have still not been officially informed but the Health Department attributed this to the problems of tracking down people after so many years.

Mr. Fry's 28-year-old daughter was among those injected with the hormones. "Instead of being four foot (1.2 metres) she is now five foot two (1.58 metres) and leading a wonderful life," he said. "She has benefited enormously but of course we're totally cut up that by so doing she could have been condemned."

SOLUTIONS

PUZZLES

(A) Mammal Ladder

WHALE, SHALE, SHARE, SHORE.
SHORT, SHOOT, SCOOT, SCOOP.
STOOP, STROF, SCOT, STRAW,
STREW, SHREW.

(B) Brain-teasers

1. One man, one woman, and one child.
2. The word is NOON.

Scholars guardedly hopeful over Israel-PLO accord

WASHINGTON — A panel of experts from Georgetown University expressed cautious optimism during a Sept. 17 discussion of the Israel-PLO accord on interim self-government arrangements in the Israeli-occupied territories.

"Coming after two generations of almost total immobility... I think this has to be welcomed with some cautious hope and with some pragmatic focus on how it can be developed and how it can be built upon," said Professor Seth Tillman during the discussion hosted by Georgetown's Centre for Contemporary Arab Studies.

Prof. Tillman and fellow Georgetown professor Michael Hudson and Hisham Sharabi agreed that the document signed at the White House by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PLO official Mahmoud Abbas is, from the Palestinian perspective, deeply flawed.

But even though they used the words "inadequate," "sterile," "unfair," and "inequitable," to describe the document, all three stressed that it represents a major political and psychological turning point — and may well lead to a lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

"Inadequate though this agreement is, I think it has possibilities for the future," Prof. Tillman said. "It represents a highly commendable accommodation to harsh reality on both sides, especially on the Palestinian side. And that being the case, we ought to welcome it and encourage it in any way we can."

Professor Hisham Sharabi, who said the agreement is tantamount to "conditional surrender" on the part of Palestinians, nevertheless defended it as their only real option. Indeed, he denounced opponents of the accord as rejectionists who "say 'no' without providing an alternative." Prof. Sharabi described that position as "morally reprehensible... at this juncture in history."

"There is no alternative to what this agreement gives," Prof. Sharabi declared. "It gives (Palestinians) something to stand on, to live with, to be internationally protected by. To have their flag, their national dignity, and a future on which to build — relatively independently — and not under the heel of an occupier. And this is something."

In his analysis, Professor

Michael Hudson noted that the Palestinians "have gotten one important thing immediately, and that is Israel's formal recognition of the PLO... and Israel's formal recognition of the Palestinians as a political community." He described that fact as "a conceptual breakthrough of enormous importance" and "a transforming experience" in Israeli politics.

On the negative side, the agreement forces Palestinians to swallow the "bitter pill" of knowing that negotiations on the issues that matter most to them — including Jerusalem, Israeli settlements, refugees — will be postponed until the interim period enters its third year, Prof. Hudson said.

More palatably, the document includes what Prof. Hudson described as "hopeful and helpful clauses" which, for example, permit residents of Arab East Jerusalem to participate in elections for the Palestinian Council; allow Gaza and the West Bank to be considered a single territory; provide for economic and development projects; and provide for Palestinian autonomy to spread well beyond Gaza and Jericho in the interim period.

"All of these things sweeten what is fundamentally for Palestinians a very meager dish, and one for which the dessert... may or may not be served up," Prof. Hudson said.

Prof. Sharabi suggested that one key to the success of the agreement will be the playing out of a healing process between Israelis and Palestinians. "Add an important element of this," he said, "is, finally, to allow the Palestinians to tell their own narrative."

Prof. Sharabi, a Palestinian, recalled that he had enrolled at the University of Chicago in 1947, only to discover the following year that "my country no longer existed." Since then, Prof. Sharabi said, American discourse has been largely closed to the perceptions and experience of Palestinians.

"But I am certain," he added, "that one of the results of the opening up of this conflict will be that... people, like myself... who have known the truth all along will be able to tell their story."

Michael Hudson suggested that the success of the agreement will depend on the PLO's ability to carry out the herculean task of rapid institution-building in the occupied territories. "Within four

months, they are going to have in place the makings of a civil administration, a security force, a government, a policy-making body and, after a while, a functioning legislature," Prof. Hudson said.

"This is state-building and nation-building in a minute."

He also suggested that the success of the agreement could help quell Islamic extremism throughout the region, which now feeds on the venom generated by the Israeli-Palestinian issue.

"Much depends on what happens in the next nine months," Prof. Hudson said. He urged the United States and its allies to commit funds and technical assistance "immediately" to help implement the agreement, "so that the Palestinians — particularly in Gaza — come to feel that this deal is worth pursuing."

Later, Halim Barakat, a noted Syrian-born sociologist, novelist and scholar, said the Israel-PLO agreement may lead to increased freedom for the Palestinians and better prospects for democracy in the Arab World.

Speaking on the agreement and the impact it will have on the Arab World, during a Sept. 20 briefing at the Foreign Press Centre, Prof. Barakat also argues, however, that a lack of parity and a sense of ambiguity permeate the accord, issues that are of concern to many Arabs.

Prof. Barakat, a professor of sociology at Georgetown University's Centre for Contemporary Arab Studies, is the author of "The Arab World: Society, Cul-

ture and State."

He said the Israel-PLO accord constitutes an "historic event" that must be studied closely. He reviewed the positive aspects of the accord, as well as issues of concern.

Noting that the Palestinian question has long been a central concern of the Arab World, Prof. Barakat said that "if the accord means gaining some freedom at this stage and putting an end to suffering" for the Palestinians, "it is an accomplishment in itself."

He said the accord may also help create an environment which fosters democracy in the Arab World. Authoritarian regimes in the region will find it difficult to continue to use the threat of Israel as the basis of their legitimacy, he said. This in turn will lead to "more freedom and human rights."

The signing of the accord has taken place against an already growing awareness of "the need to shift from an emphasis on Arab unity and socialism to human rights, pluralism, democracy and civil society," Prof. Barakat said. All levels of Arab society are expressing their "need for political, socio-economic and cultural participation."

Asked about the future of the Arab World, Prof. Barakat said the Arabs will spend the next decade "redefining our priorities for the future, with a focus on human rights, pluralism, and civil society."

If civil society "can play a role, then there will be answers" to the problems the Arab World now

faces, he said. Increased popular participation will lead to new ideas and a "vision for the future," he said.

Prof. Barakat said Arab reaction to the Israel-PLO accord ranges from those who believe the agreement will lead to better prospects for the future to those who oppose the accord.

He cautioned that elements of opposition should not be lumped together. There are those who are "responsible in their opposition" and others who seek to obstruct the accord, he said.

Three issues of concern arise from the accord: the question of parity, its ambiguity and the question of Arab unity, he said.

On the question of parity, Prof. Barakat said the accord was signed at a time when Israel is in a position of strength and the Palestinians in a position of weakness. While the Palestinians accepted certain conditions, such as renouncing terrorism, "no conditions were put on the Israelis," he said.


The issue of parity "disturbs those who want a comprehensive peace," Prof. Barakat said.

Secondly, he said, the terms of the accord are "very ambiguous" and will lead to conflicting interpretations. He argued that the interpretation of the side which "negotiates from strength" is the one more likely to prevail.

Finally, the accord underscored the lack of Arab unity at the coordination level, according to Prof. Barakat. "It was another instance when there was no coordination."

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Inter-Continental hotels introduces new rewards for business

Inter-Continental Hotels launched a ground breaking campaign targeted at the frequent business traveller — Global Business Options — affording frequent travellers the choice of a value-added benefit when staying at Inter-Continental or Forum International hotels.

Based on the results of Inter-Continental's ongoing consumer research programme and the success of an options-style programme in the United States, Global Business Options offers the most popular value-added benefits preferred by frequent travellers. Consequently, Global Business Options reflects the changing needs and expectations of the 1990's business traveller: affordability, value for money and personal or corporate benefits.

Global Business Options offers quality Inter-Continental or Forum International accommodation at a preferential corporate rate (representing substantial savings off published rates and includes double occupancy at no additional charge) plus the choice of one amenity from a list of options:

- upgrade to a junior or one-bedroom suite confirmed at the time of booking;
- double airline mileage or points from participating airlines which include American Airlines, Austrian Airlines, Cathay Pacific, KLM, Malaysian, SAS, Singapore, Swissair, United Airlines, Virgin Atlantic and, from Oct. 1, TWA;
- a \$25 per day credit on food and beverage (including mini bar) or laundry/laundry or telephone calls. A \$15 credit is applicable at all Forum Hotels;
- individual hotels will also offer their own alternative such as a selected gift from Tiffany & Co. when staying in London and fine wines, when in Germany.

The programme is valid until Jan. 31, 1994. Guests choosing to pay with an American Express card will be given a certificate entitling them to one additional option when next staying at an Inter-Continental or Forum International hotel.

Commenting on the launch of this major initiative, Anthony Liddard, Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Inter-Continental Hotels Middle East and Africa, said: "Our research and customer profiling has clearly identified that today's corporate traveller is expecting not only better value in the room rate and quality accommodation equation, but now is also seeking some kind of remuneration or reward for their patronage and loyalty."

He continued to say: "The choice of options was developed based on direct customer feedback and experience. Global Business Options is designed to satisfy the various needs and preferences of

our customers which are often determined by their length of stay, location and cost-saving priorities."

Inter-Continental's ongoing research programme, reflected in the products and services it offers, shows that 85% of its guests are business travellers and 75% are repeat visitors to the group. The company's success and commitment to the business traveller is reflected in the many awards Inter-

Continental receives every year.

Most recently, Executive Travel, a magazine devoted to the business traveller, voted Inter-Continental Hotels the "Best Hotel Group in Europe." Le Grand Hotel Inter-Continental Paris, was singled out as the best hotel in Europe. Hotel Inter-Continental London, the Britannia Inter-Continental London, George Inter-Continental Edinburgh and the Hotel Inter-Continental Dubai were voted

leading hotels in their respective cities.

Inter-Continental operates 104 hotels in the heart of the world's major business locations in 46 countries. Of these, 75 are located in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, with hotels under construction in Hamburg, Luxor and Hurgada and a major renovation programme ready to commence in Beirut which will mark Inter-Continental's return to Lebanon.

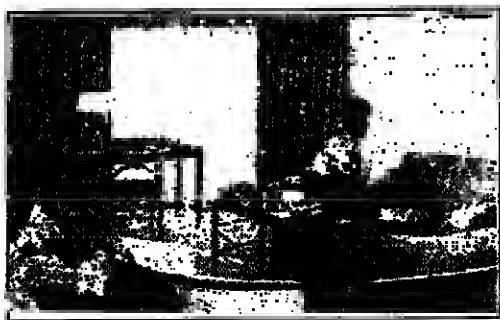
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COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED	CLOSING	PREV.	OPENING	CLOSING
	NO	PRICE	PRICE	PRICE	PRICE
ABAB BANK	285,661	183.400	183.000	183.000	300.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	25,369	6.150	6.150	6.150	6.150
BANK OF JORDAN	19,085	4.350	4.350	4.350	4.350
KIDDAE BAIT INVESTMENT BANK	12,431	0.950	0.950	0.950	0.950
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	19,085	4.350	4.350	4.350	4.350
THE HOUSING BANK	10,204	0.550	0.550	0.550	0.550
JORDAN KIDDAE BANK	207,638	3.150	3.150	3.150	3.150
ABAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	6,918	4.050	4.050	4.050	4.050
JORDAN KIDDAE BANK	4,000	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000
ABAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	13,472	4.850	4.850	4.850	4.850
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	13,223	6.450	6.450	6.450	6.450
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	181,985	2.850	2.850	2.850	2.850
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	13,141	3.350	3.350	3.350	3.350
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	11,180	2.630	2.630	2.630	2.630
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	18,739	3.750	3.750	3.750	3.750
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	300	1.850	1.850	1.850	1.850
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1,714	2.600	2.600	2.600	2.600
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	27,688	4.700	4.700	4.700	4.700
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	189,867	2.850	2.850	2.850	2.850
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	45,632	8.020	8.020	8.020	8.020
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	15,923	0.680	0.680	0.680	0.680
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	50,445	4.150	4.150	4.150	4.150
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	10,510	1.750	1.750	1.750	1.750
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	7,985	0.580	0.580	0.580	0.580
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	3,023	1.110	1.110	1.110	1.110
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	10,016	5.700	5.700	5.700	5.700
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	64,886	2.250	2.250	2.250	2.250
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	6,123	8.100	8.100	8.100	8.100
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1,200	24.500	24.500	24.500	24.500
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1,164,382	3.950	3.950	3.950	3.950
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	24,538	10.530	10.530	10.530	10.530
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	61,582	7.410	7.410	7.410	7.410
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	10,510	11.600	11.600	11.600	11.600
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	107,690	0.870	0.870	0.870	0.870
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	18,184	7.450	7.450	7.450	7.450
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	2,600	2.400	2.400	2.400	2.400
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	6,880	3.920	3.920	3.920	3.920
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	10,510	3.450	3.450	3.450	3.450
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	2,638	4.450	4.450	4.450	4.450
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	10,510	3.700	3.700	3.700	3.700
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	7,429	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	133,536	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.300
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	10,510	2.850	2.850	2.850	2.850
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	10,510	2.850	2.850	2.850	2.850
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	44,823	5.510	5.510	5.510	5.510
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK					
GRAND TOTAL		3,135,597			

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET: 87226
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET: 30
88436

IIF urges new approaches to finance by World Bank

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The Institute of International Finance (IIF) called Tuesday for new approaches by the World Bank and other global institutions to improve their effectiveness in using private funds for developing countries.

The IIF, which represents many of the world's largest commercial banks, serves as a spokesman for its members with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Group of Seven and other multilateral financial institutions.

"The ability of the emerging market economies of Latin America, Asia, the Middle East and Central Europe to access private international capital markets varies greatly and requires the introduction of flexible, differentiated and tailored instruments by the international institutions," IIF Managing Director Charles Dallara wrote in a letter to Belgian Finance Minister Philippe Maystadt, chairman of the IMF's Interim Committee.

Private external capital flows to major developing countries in-

creased from \$23 billion in 1988 to \$85 billion in 1992, he said, while equity flows in this period doubled to reach nearly \$40 billion.

The IIF believes that the World Bank and its private finance arm, the International Finance Corporation, should play in some instances "supportive, rather than lead roles, particularly in transactions which can be largely — although not completely — carried by the private sector," Mr. Dallara wrote.

In other cases, "a more active

role will be required by these institutions where sovereign risk remains very high."

The international financial institutions should discuss the gray areas of loans with the private banking sector, letting bankers know where commercial risk ends and political risk begins, Mr. Dallara said at a news conference.

In the case of the countries of the former Soviet Union, the private sector may only be willing to assume the commercial risk of large new projects "if the multi-

lateral institutions provide coverage of a broader definition of political risk," he said.

The managing director hailed steps taken by the World Bank — creation of a vice president for relations with the private sector and strengthening the role of the International Finance Corporation — but emphasized that more still needed to be done.

Noting the success of privatizations, the multilateral development banks should reconsider "whether it is appropriate to continue to insist upon borrowing

government guarantees for all of their loans."

Support of the developing countries, which now account for more than one-third of the world's output and trade, "is no longer a matter of foreign aid, but of fostering economic activity which can contribute importantly to growth and employment in the industrial world."

The IIF will be an observer at the 48th annual meeting of the IMF and World Bank which opens Thursday in Washington.

Arab Gulf states look to join GATT

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Gulf Arab states coded a two-day meeting here Wednesday with most of them agreeing in principle to join the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), their economic chief said.

Trade ministers from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) reviewed a recommendation from their Riyadh-based general secretariat to seek membership in the Geneva-based world group.

"The ministers agreed on a recommendation encouraging member states which are not members of GATT to join it," the GCC assistant secretary general for economic affairs, Abdullah Al Quwair, told reporters after the meeting.

"Most members welcomed such a move. The United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar and Bahrain are now seriously con-

sidering joining GATT," he said. Kuwait is the only GCC nation to have joined GATT, in 1984, while Saudi Arabia applied for membership in July. A Saudi envoy attending the Abu Dhabi talks said a committee of 16 GATT members was studying Riyadh's application.

Sheikh Quwair, a Saudi, declined to say whether the remaining GCC state Oman had shown enthusiasm for GATT membership.

The GCC's growing interest in GATT comes amid complaints about increasing protectionism in major world economic groups and the emergence of new trading blocs.

The oil-rich GCC states have begun to erect customs barriers to protect their burgeoning industries, which are vital for their attempts to lessen reliance on unstable oil export earnings.

"GATT has become of great

importance to GCC countries because it started to discuss issues of interest to them," said Sheikh Quwair.

"The current Uruguay round of GATT negotiations covers commodities of concern to the GCC, like petrochemicals, as well as services such as banking, insurance, communications and intellectual property," he said. "All these issues are of great interest to the GCC."

Sheikh Quwair said Gulf states were expected to play an active role within GATT given their relatively large trade, which accounted for nearly two-thirds of their gross domestic product of \$169 billion in 1992.

The Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund has urged all Arab League members to join GATT and warned that growing protectionism in a single European market would depress their exports by nearly 30 per cent.

Record numbers visit Britain

LONDON (R) — A record number of foreigners visited Britain in 1992 and spent more money than ever before, despite the recession and an expensive pound, the British Tourist Authority (BTA) has said.

That was good news for a tourism sector battered in 1991 by recession and by the Gulf war. The war prompted many Americans — Britain's biggest tourist group — to cut back sharply on overseas travel.

Some 18.5 million visitors arrived in Britain last year, up from 17.1 million in 1991, and they spent \$7.9 billion (\$12.18 billion) compared to \$7.4 billion (\$11.41 billion) in 1991, the BTA said in its annual report.

Some 8.5 million foreign visitors arrived in the first half of 1993, a three per cent increase over the year-earlier period — another record, the BTA said.

Alan Jefferson, BTA's acting chief executive, said the figures showed a recovery in tourism, which he described as a still fragile market in 1992, despite the record number of arrivals and spending.

"In the early months of this year international tourism at last began to turn the corner," he told a news conference.

BTA's chairwoman, Adele Biss, said tourism in Britain was set to benefit this year from a devalued pound that gave foreigners greater spending power.

She also said this rainy season expected to attract a growing number of tourists who have opted in the past for sunnier destinations.

"We are forecasting an even stronger year to come as we reap the benefits of devaluation and the move away from simple sunbathing to the more fulfilling holidays that Britain offers," Ms.

Biss said at the same news conference.

Americans represented the biggest national group travelling to Britain and the biggest spenders last year, with 2.75 million American visitors spending \$1.49 billion (\$2.30 billion).

The BTA said it expected 19.5 million foreigners to visit this year and to spend about \$8.2 billion (\$12.64 billion). The forecast for 1994 was 20.7 million visitors and \$8.2 billion (\$13.10 billion) in spending.

Tourism is one of Britain's biggest foreign exchange earners. Britain had a trade deficit of \$2.67 billion \$4 billion in the second quarter, following a quarter deficit of \$4 billion. Central Statistical Office has said.

Analysis had expected the deficit to reach between \$2.8 billion and \$2.8 billion.

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
	Date: 21/9/93	Date: 22/9/93
Sterling Pound	1.5143	1.5190
Deutsche Mark	1.6385	1.6340
Swiss Franc	1.4225	1.4215
French Franc	5.7070	5.6765**
Japanese Yen	106.33	105.98
European Currency Unit	1.1668	1.1670**

100 Per 100
European Opening: 10:00 a.m. GMT

Commodity Interest Rates
Data: 22/9/1993

Currency	1 MTR	3 MTR	6 MTR	12 MTR
U.S. Dollar	3.06	3.09	3.28	3.44
Sterling Pound	5.83	5.80	5.75	5.72
Deutsche Mark	6.75	6.50	6.25	5.88
Swiss Franc	4.73	4.56	4.43	4.25
French Franc	7.18	7.12	6.75	6.18
Japanese Yen	2.56	2.45	2.45	2.45
European Currency Unit	7.81	7.56	7.25	6.63

Interest rate for 1 month exceeding U.S. Dollar 100.000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals
Data: 22/9/1993

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	359.40	7.80	Silver	4.20	0.090

31 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Data: 22/9/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6820	0.6840
Sterling Pound	1.0483	1.0535
Deutsche Mark	0.4211	0.4232
Swiss Franc	0.4849	0.4873
French Franc	0.1212	0.1218
Japanese Yen	0.6512	0.6545
Dutch Guilder	0.3752	0.3771
Swedish Krona	0.0437	0.0439
Italian Lira	0.0437	0.0439
Belgian Franc	0.0437	0.0439

Other Currencies

Data: 22/9/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8130	1.8430
Lebanese Lira	0.039545	0.040825
Saudi Riyal	0.1810	0.1860
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2550	2.3200
Qatari Riyal	0.1875	0.1892
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7640	1.8210
UAE Dirham	0.1675	0.1692
Greek Drachma	0.29075	0.33450
Cypriot Pound	1.3635	1.4045

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	Canadian dollar
1.3200/10	0.6500/10
1.6300/10	0.6500/10
1.8300/10	0.6500/10
1.4167/77	0.6500/10
34.66/76	0.6500/10
5.6650/50	0.6500/10
1582.04/0	0.6500/10
106.20/30	0.6500/10
8.1220/20	0.6500/10
7.0970/70	0.6500/10
6.6330/30	0.6500/10
\$1.5185/95	0.6500/10
One ounce of gold	335.00/356.50

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Izetbegovic dampens peace hopes

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic has dimmed hopes expressed by mediators that the war which has destroyed Bosnia could soon be over.

And one of the Muslim-led army's best known commanders was quoted as saying his men would fight on regardless of any political agreement to divide the republic into ethnic mini-states of Muslims, Serbs and Croats.

Mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg said after talks between representatives of the warring parties on a British warship in the Adriatic Monday that they were now closer than ever to an agreement to end the 17-month-old war.

But Mr. Izetbegovic returned to his shattered capital Sarajevo from the talks Tuesday saying he could not recommend acceptance of the latest peace plan.

"I personally am not inclined towards that proposal," Mr. Izetbegovic told a news conference.

He said the final decision would be made by Bosnia's parliament, set to meet next Monday on Wednesday.

"I just hope and literally pray that they decide to accept it and we can bring this bloody, ghastly war to an end," Lord Owen, the European Community's mediator, said.

Monday's high seas parley, on the aircraft carrier *Invincible*, secured a deal that will give a proposed Muslim mini-state in Bosnia vital access to the Adriatic.

Mr. Izetbegovic said that crucial issue had been resolved satisfactorily, as far as the proposed state's economic requirements were concerned.

But there were still occupied areas of Bosnia which Mr. Izetbegovic felt should be ceded to the Muslims.

"I cannot accept regions populated by Bosnians remaining within the Serb republic. I will accept that only if I have to," Mr. Izetbegovic said.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said Monday the latest territorial concession of half a per cent was the seventh to the Muslims. He warned that all would be revoked if a solution was not reached. "Enough is enough," he said.

Under the proposed carve-up, the Muslims would control about 30 per cent of land, the Serbs, who now control 70 per cent, would have 52 per cent and Croats 18 per cent.

Bosnian radio quoted Arif Pastile, the commander of Muslim troops in the southern city of Mostar, as saying his troops were determined to fight on regardless of any settlement.

Some 55,000 Muslims are trapped in the eastern part of the city by surrounding Croats.

Commander Pasalic was quoted as saying his troops were intent on "liberating Mostar and the Herzegovina region regardless of the political settlement of the Bosnian crisis."

New clashes broke out Wednesday between the Bosnian army and Bosnian Croat forces in central and southern Bosnia-Herzegovina, a U.N. protection force (UNPROFOR) — spokes-

man said.

Croatian radio monitored in Belgrade quoted the Croat military leadership as saying the Bosnian army had been "totally defeated" on the southern flank of Mostar, the main town in Herzegovina.

However Radio Sarajevo said the Bosnian army had captured the strategic Medved Hill, to the west of the town.

Three civilians died and six were wounded late Tuesday when Muslim units shelled the central town of Novi Travnik, Croatian radio added.

The U.N. spokesman said there were some "heavy exchanges of fire" Tuesday along confrontation lines in the Vitez area of central Bosnia, along with heavy Croat shelling of Mostar. However, the situation was "calmer now" than in the first days which followed Saturday's declared ceasefire, he added.

The situation around Sarajevo was fairly quiet, with occasional sniping in town and some firing on Zuc Hill nearby.

In Belgrade, the official Serbian News Agency, Tanjug, quoted the head of the Bosnian army's Third Corps as saying Croat infantrymen had tried "unsuccessfully" to recapture territory they lost Monday around the village of Krusica in the north of the Vitez area.

Meanwhile, peace mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg briefed NATO Wednesday on the chances of ending the war in Bosnia, with the alliance poised to send some 50,000 troops to tackle the risky job of

policing an agreement.

Lord Owen told reporters on arrival in Brussels he hoped the Bosnian assembly would approve a deal next week that would split the republic into three ethnic mini-states, despite reservations expressed by Mr. Izetbegovic.

"I just hope that they do settle. I really do fear for the future, but these must be their choices," he said.

Lord Owen said negotiations on the territorial divisions between the warring Croats, Muslims and Serbs could continue even after the peace deal was agreed in principle but suggested there was little room for manoeuvre until that happened.

"It's very hard to see the negotiating process getting very much more in the immediate future," he said.

Lord Owen and Mr. Stoltenberg met NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner, top military representatives and alliance ambassadors.

If peace is near, NATO faces the highest operation in its history — and a ground deployment outside the territory of its member states for the first time since it was set up to counter Soviet military power in 1949.

Mr. Stoltenberg said it was crucial any force sent to Bosnia should be able to police the agreement effectively.

"That will be decisive both for establishing peace and keeping the peace," he said.

NATO, which agreed last week to start formal planning to enforce the agreement, now seems almost certain to get the job.



A group of Nicaraguan riot police protect themselves from gunfire by transportation workers who fired after police tried to clear the road to the Managua airport when it was blocked during a national transport strike (AFP photo)

Chamorro to return amid deepening crisis

MANAGUA (AP) — Striking transport workers manned barricades and awaited the president's return Wednesday after a shoot-out with police left two people dead and two injured a day earlier.

President Violeta Chamorro said she would return Wednesday morning from a Central American summit in Guatemala, which she attended only after a bulldozer smashed through a barricade on the road to the international airport early Tuesday.

A police officer and a woman bystander were killed and at least two other people wounded in Tuesday afternoon's shootout between striking transportation workers and police after the barricade was rebuilt on the Pan American Highway following Mrs. Chamorro's departure.

The indefinite strike by more than 30,000 bus, taxi and truck drivers started Monday to protest a government hike in fuel prices and imposition of vehicle taxes.

"The government is an assassin," said Daniel Ortega, the former president whose leftist Sandinista government was defeated by Mrs. Chamorro in 1990 elections.

He said the government had better rescind the fuel and tax increases or the people could possibly try to force her from power.

Police fired tear gas, rubber bullets and then live rounds during the shootout with armed strikers who manned flaming barricades on the Pan American Highway, the major highway across the Americas.

The shooting lasted more than an hour, and police were turned back after failing to remove the barricade of flaming tires, junked

cars, logs and paving stones. Hundreds of armed strikers lit tire bonfires and remained there on main thoroughfares overnight.

Mrs. Chamorro cancelled plans to return Tuesday night, staying in Guatemala City because the meeting had "ended very late," explained presidential spokesman Ernesto Robledo in Managua.

The armed strikers on the airport road barricade have vowed to block her return, although Mrs. Chamorro could possibly avoid confrontation by taking a helicopter to downtown.

The violence in Nicaragua led American and Continental Airlines to cancel scheduled flights Wednesday to Nicaragua, officials of the U.S.-based airlines said. Each airline has one flight daily.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Kravchuk names acting premier

KIEV (R) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk appointed a conservative top mining official, Yefim Zvyagilsky, as acting prime minister Wednesday, a presidential spokesman said. Mr. Zvyagilsky, a proponent of increased state involvement in the economy, was appointed by presidential decree a day after parliament accepted the resignation of his predecessor, Leonid Kuchma. Mr. Kravchuk had hinted during parliamentary debate this week that he could name an acting premier, as Boris Yeltsin did in Russia last year, to help speed introduction of economic reforms.

Shuttle makes right landing

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — The shuttle Discovery Wednesday made its first Florida nighttime landing, after a mission during which astronauts deployed a satellite designed to revolutionize the U.S. communications industry. "Congratulations, Frank, making the first night landing of a shuttle at KSC (Kennedy Space Centre)," said shuttle communicator Kevin Chilton. Navy Captain Frank Culbertson, the Discovery pilot, replied: "It's a real honour to bring it back to KSC where they work on it and make such a nice machine fly so well." Delayed by

weather a day, Discovery touched down at 3:56 a.m. EDT (0756 GMT) with five astronauts on board just a few miles from the pad where it was launched on Sept. 12. Other nighttime landings have been made in California but this was the first at the Kennedy Space Centre.

Russia apologises over POW document

HANOI (R) — Russia apologised to Vietnam Wednesday for the release of a Soviet intelligence document which fuelled U.S.-Vietnamese mistrust over American prisoners of war (POWs). Moscow's action appeared likely to ease U.S. doubts about Vietnamese good faith on the key issue in their relations — efforts to account for 2,248 U.S. servicemen still listed as missing.

Khmer Rouge to defend its territory

BANGKOK (AFP) — The Khmer Rouge said Wednesday that it would defend territory under its control in Western Cambodia if the new national government attempts to assert its sovereignty over the area. In a statement issued by radio a day after the parliament formally adopted Cambodia's new constitution, the radical guerrilla movement declared that Khmer Rouge fighters are under strict orders to defend their positions and to vigorously protect the Khmer nation as well as the entire Khmer people.

Clinton leads way on prompt backing for Yeltsin

LONDON (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton led Western governments in giving swift support to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, giving his plan to dissolve parliament and hold free elections the benefit of the doubt.

Although most Western governments had only an hour's advance notice, their support came more promptly than during the August 1991 hardline putsch, which Mr. Yeltsin successfully resisted.

On that occasion, while some Western leaders backed Mr. Yeltsin, others such as President Francois Mitterrand appeared to accept the legitimacy of the putsch, at least initially.

Mr. Clinton had a 17-minute telephone conversation with Mr. Yeltsin in which he sought assurances that the Russian leader's bid to disband parliament and hold new elections did not threaten democratic reforms.

"In a democracy, the people should finally decide the issues that are at the heart of political and social debate," Mr. Clinton said in a statement.

"President Yeltsin has made this choice and I support him fully," he said.

This time there was no comment from Mr. Mitterrand but French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe expressed support for Mr. Yeltsin.

Asked on television to comment on Mr. Yeltsin's decision to dissolve parliament and call elections, Mr. Juppe said: "Who enjoys democratic legitimacy? President Yeltsin and his team."

"I hope with all my heart that the reformers, who are ready to stand up and face a ballot, will come out on top," he added.

In a separate interview, Prime Minister Edouard Balladur said: "Let us draw a conclusion from all this. That we, in Western Europe, have undoubtedly failed to do our duty by Eastern European countries liberated from communism."

British Prime Minister John Major, in Malaysia on a trade mission, expressed his support in a message to Mr. Yeltsin: "I would like to assure you of our full support for your determined and courageous efforts in the face of great difficulties to surmount challenges to your reform programme and to create a democratic framework for Russia and the Russian people."

Reaction from Bonn was more cautious: Germany was concerned at events in Russia and Chancellor Helmut Kohl was being kept informed of developments, a government spokesman said.

"It is too early to have an overview of the direction events will take," he said. The German Foreign Ministry declined to comment. "We are gathering information and waiting to see what happens," a ministry spokesman said.

Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt said Mr. Yeltsin's dissolution of parliament was "regrettable but necessary."

Bildt said on Swedish television he did not believe Mr. Yeltsin's move would lead to civil war in Russia.

"This is a parliament which dates from Soviet times. It refused to go for election. So in some circumstances one ends up in a regrettable but necessary situation," Bildt said.

Canadian External Affairs Minister Perrin Beatty said Canada welcomed Mr. Yeltsin's commitment to give the Russian people an opportunity to choose their parliament freely and democratically.

Mr. Yeltsin dissolved the Russian legislature and said he would rule by decree until elections for a new parliament were held in December.

"Canada has supported President Yeltsin substantially in his efforts to move Russia to democracy and market economy, and will stand by him as he continues those efforts," Mr. Beatty said in a statement.

Japan, whose relations with Russia have been far less warm than those of other G-7 governments, voiced support for Yeltsin.

Chief government spokesman Masayoshi Takemura told a news conference that "Japan has supported Yeltsin's efforts on reform until now and we plan to continue to back him."

Yeltsin said his reform efforts had been mocked by the legislature. We think his decision... was a proper one. I will refrain from saying any more because the Japanese government does not want to be seen interfering in Russia's domestic affairs."

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoly Zlenko also backed Yeltsin, saying his move would ensure calm and stability in Ukraine's giant neighbour.

"This is a decisive step, perhaps not entirely democratic,

but there was no other way," Mr. Zlenko told Reuters by telephone.

"Confrontation had reached such a point that there was nowhere to turn. This action could well have negative consequences. But it is in Ukraine's interests to have calm and mutual understanding within Russia," he said.

Russia and Ukraine have frequently been at odds over economic and military issues since the collapse of the Soviet Union two years ago but Kiev backs Mr. Yeltsin because his hardline opponents in Moscow are seen as a direct threat to Ukraine's sovereignty.

Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana said Wednesday he hoped new elections called by Mr. Yeltsin would enable him to press on with his reforms.

"Spain supports the process of political and economic reforms initiated by President Yeltsin which have been blocked by parliament's opposition," Mr. Solana said.

"We hope that elections will take place in a free climate creating a new legitimacy which will make it possible for (these) reforms to continue in peace and democracy."

Norway gave its support on Wednesday to Mr. Yeltsin's dissolution of parliament, saying fresh elections should be held soon.

"Norway will continue to support Yeltsin and the reforms which have been implemented," Foreign Minister Johan Joergen Holst told the Norwegian News Agency (NTB).

"It's now important that new elections are held soon since this situation has arisen and we also hope that democratic rights will be secured in the process," he added.

Turkmenistan's presidential press office said Wednesday the Central Asian state supported Mr. Yeltsin.

"We do not think there will be a civil war or a coup because the Russian military has said it will not intervene," presidential spokesman Durymuhamed Kurbanov said by telephone from the Turkmen capital Ashgabat. "We have always had good relations with Russia and we do not expect any changes in these because of what has happened."

"We support Yeltsin," he added.

The European Community cal-

led the crisis "the inevitable consequences of an impasse created by conservative forces hostile to democratic reform."

"We support the decision of President Yeltsin, the only directly elected official, in his efforts towards maintaining this (democratic) process," said Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes, speaking for the whole EC.

"The process must lead to democratic elections permitting the unblocking of the political situation," the EC insisted.

Italy's government pledged support for Mr. Yeltsin, but some countries, pointing out the dangers of his actions.

New Zealand Foreign Minister Don McKinnon said: "Abolishing political institutions, even flawed political institutions, in a country with so short a tradition of democracy is fraught with danger."

Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said: "The steps taken were not justified and were anti-democratic," according to the Italian News Agency (ANSA). Mr. Gorbachev has been on a speaking tour of Italy.

East European nations allied behind the banner of reform, but were jittery.

Hungary, which depends on Russian natural gas and petroleum, said it "was always among the first to support Russian reforms and President Boris Yeltsin," a government statement said.

In Bucharest, the Foreign Ministry said Romania "shares the belief that the earliest holding of elections in the Russian parliament could solve the present political crisis and ensure the democratisation and reform process, whose symbol is President Yeltsin."

Czech President Vaclav Havel said "I would like Russia to have soon a truly democratic constitution and a supreme legislative body whose members would come of free elections."

A spokeswoman for Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus said the government is convinced that Mr. Yeltsin and his allies will succeed in stabilising the situation and leading Russia to democratic elections.

In neutral Austria, the government said it fully endorses "a consistent continuation of the reform processes begun in Russia following the collapse of the Communist system."

U.S. leans on Haiti to end terror

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — American diplomats and military advisers pressed Haiti's army Tuesday to halt a rash of murders and violence that threatens to delay the planned return of deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

The hastily-organised visit of Alexander Watson, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, and General John Sheehan, was aimed at persuading Haiti's military to rein in a police-funded private militia terrorising the streets, according to political observers.

Bullet-riddled corpses are turning up on a daily basis in the capital in what human rights activists call the worst violence since the September 1991 coup that toppled Mr. Aristide.

The number of dead found daily is impossible to confirm, but some rights activists estimate that as many as a dozen residents of the capital city die in political killings each night, mostly in slums where Mr. Aristide supporters live.

U.N. human rights officials have confirmed a total of 91 suspect killings since July 3, when Aristide and coup leader General Raoul Cedras signed the U.N. peace plan.

Mr. Aristide's planned Oct. 30 return is the final step in a plan to restore democracy to the Caribbean nation.

Sporadic machine gun fire, not heard since the coup, echoes nightly in slum areas.

Some of the shot and beaten bodies are found on the garbage-littered streets of the capital. But many others are believed to be whisked away by truck, or weighted with cinder blocks and dumped in the ocean, human rights activists say.

Still other Haitians are grabbed from their homes, blindfolded, beaten and taken to secret locations where they are questioned about their political beliefs by armed men in civilian clothes, activists said.

Security and Counterproliferation Ashton B. Carter said roughly \$700 million of the \$8

Olympic champion banned for life

LONDON (AFP) — Olympic shot put champion Mike Stulce has been suspended for life Tuesday following a positive drugs test at last month's World Championships.

American Stulce, third at the Stuttgart championships, also tested positive to a banned drug in 1990 and received a two year suspension. He returned to competition in time to win the gold at the Barcelona Olympics.

International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) Spokeswoman Jayne Pearce said Stulce, 24, was banned for life pending a hearing by the U.S. Athletics Federation.

Pearce would not identify the drug but said it carried an automatic four-year suspension for first offenders.

"It is IAAF policy to never reveal the substance," Pearce said. She said two tests were held on a urine sample from Stulce. The first test was straight after competition in Stuttgart and the B test, to confirm the first positive result, was on September 16.

The announcement was delayed until Tuesday to give the U.S. Track and Field Federation time to inform Stulce.

He has the right to request a hearing from his national federation, Pearce said.

The Houston Athlete, second at the World Junior Championships in 1988 and the World University Games in 1989, was first banned for testosterone use in April 1990. He returned to action three months before the Olympics.

Stulce is the fourth athlete to return a positive test from Stuttgart. The others were javelin thrower Dmitry Polyunin, of Uzbekistan, 800m runner Liliya Nurutdinova, of Russia, and Discus thrower Ramos Ubatus, of Lithuania.

Queen Noor inaugurates Arabian Horse show

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor joined hundreds of horse lovers Wednesday at the opening ceremony of an Arabian Horse Show at the Royal Stables at Al Hummar.

The horse show, which will conclude Friday, is part of the five-day 4th Arabian Horse at Home Show which also features the 2nd Middle East Championship.

The opening ceremony was attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein, President of the Jordanian Arabian Horse Society and the Arab organization for Arabian Horses. The Ceremony climaxed



Queen Noor awards Class 1 first place winner Alysonb (photo by Aynsley Floyd)

Class 3 colts foaled in 1991
1st place: Scudsy, owned by Jordan's S. Kheir
2nd place: Kaseh, owned by Qatar's Sheikh Nawaf
3rd place: Saffir, owned by Qatar's Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani.

Class 4 colts foaled in 1990
1st place: Kahin, owned by Jordan's Ja'afar Stud.

2nd place: Badr Al Badia, owned by Qatar's Hassan Al Matwi

3rd place: Kabarda Nart, owned by Jordan's S. Tara-been

Class 5 yearling fillies
1st place: Imperial Kamasayyah, owned by Qatar's Sheikh Hamad Al Thani

2nd place: Shaymaa, owned by the Royal Jordanian State Stud

3rd place: Imperial grace, owned by Qatar's Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Thani

Class 6 fillies foaled in 1991
1st place: Futoon, owned by Qatar's Al Shaqab Stud

2nd place: Camilia, owned by Jordan's S. Kheir

3rd place: Ansata Magnifica, owned by Qatar's Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Thani

Class 7 fillies foaled in 1990
1st place: Fazehra, owned by Jordan's Ja'afar Stud

2nd place: Hamama, owned by the Royal Jordanian State Stud

3rd place: Almasa, owned by Jordan's S. Kheir

Women's Basketball Championship

Jazireh-Orthodox clash in final today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The 1993 Women's Basketball Championship ends Thursday when Al Jazireh clash with titleholders Al Orthodox in a most-awaited match by both players and fans alike.

Al Jazireh who defeated Al Orthodox 65-58 in the first round last week were scheduled to meet Al Orthodox Tuesday, however, the Competitions' Committee at the Jordan Basketball Federation made a last-minute change on the schedule so that the top two teams would actually meet on the final day of the two-week long competition.

The Jazireh-Orthodox match will be preceded by the Ali-Abu Nuzair match at Al Orthodox's court. Al Jazireh will be crowned the Kingdom's new champions even if they lose by less than 7 points, meaning that Al Orthodox will have to put up a big effort in an attempt to score a victory by over 7 points to retain the championship title.

Al Jazireh has a full line-up of young, energetic players like Tala Al Mauge, Suhair Al Maktusi and the new recruits Jumana al Salti and Rana Al Hussein. The basic line-up might miss playmaker Hala Al Muhaisen because of an arm injury she sustained during the match Tuesday against newcomers Abu Nuzair who suffered their fifth consecutive crushing defeat of 104-14 (the first half ending 43-9).

On the other hand, Al Orthodox fields a smaller number of basic line-up players and mainly depends on the experience of Lara Masri-Al Naber, Jihan Abdul Noor, Carol Seikaly and Ghadah Qandah. They beat Al Ahli 62-47 (36-21) in their last match Tuesday.

STANDINGS

	P	W	L	PF	SA	Pts
Jazireh	5	5	1	379	130	10
Orthodox	5	4	1	416	162	9
Ali	5	1	4	204	267	6
Abu Nuzair	5	—	5	54	494	5

2000 Olympics Rumour mill goes into overdrive on eve of vote

MONTE CARLO (R) — The Olympic rumour mill went into overdrive Wednesday on the eve of the vote to select the host city for the 2000 Games.

But the 1,000 delegates from the five bidding cities and the 900 media personnel packed into the tiny principality of Monaco were largely groping in the dark to predict which city will get the nod from the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Twenty-four hours before the IOC was due to choose between Peking, Sydney, Manchester, Berlin and Istanbul, the consensus still had Peking as the probable winners.

But for the most part IOC members prefer not to advertise their voting intentions, which leaves the candidates and the media feeding more off fancy than fact.

With generally not a shred of tangible evidence to sustain it, the rumour mill has still been turning faster than the roulette wheels in Monte Carlo's plush casinos.

Among the best yarns is the suggestion that the Chinese government intends to nominate IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch for the Nobel Peace Prize — if Peking gets the games.

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Jean Fournet-Fayard, president of the French Football Federation, speaks to reporters Wednesday after the FFF's decision to strip Marseille of their title (AFP photo)

Marseille stripped of French title

PARIS (AFP) — French football authorities Wednesday stripped Olympic Marseille of its league title over the club's alleged involvement in a match-fixing scandal, it was announced here.

The sanction, announced at a press conference by the French Football Federation (FFF), will be effective until the court looking into allegations that two Marseille men bribed players of the Valenciennes team to throw a key game gives its ruling.

The decision as to whether the club can take part in the French Cup for the 1993-1994 season is under review, the authorities said.

Two Valenciennes players, Christophe Robert and Jorge Baruchaga, and Marseille player Jean-Jacques Eydelie, were suspended.

The three had told a judge that Marseille General Manager Jean-Pierre Bernes had offered money to the Valenciennes players to throw a crucial league match on May 20 last season. Eydelie was allegedly the go-between who contacted the Valenciennes players.

Bernes was also suspended until further notice. The FFF also declared the Valenciennes-Marseille match, which Marseille won 1-0, a defeat for both teams.

No immediate decisions were made concerning the club presidents, Michel Coencas for Valenciennes and Bernard Tapie for Marseille. Tapie was among the key figures interviewed by the FFF Wednesday and is accused of trying to pay former Valenciennes trainer Boro Primorac to take the blame for the affair.

Marseille virtually sealed its fifth consecutive

league title after winning the match against Valenciennes.

Marseille, who went on to win the European Champions Cup six days after the Valenciennes game, has been banned from defending its title this season over the scandal.

French football has also been threatened by the world governing body FIFA with a worldwide ban if authorities did not take sanctions against Marseille before Thursday.

Meanwhile in Zurich, Switzerland, world soccer's governing body FIFA said it was satisfied with the French soccer federation's action against Olympique Marseille and pulled back from a threat to bar France from international soccer.

"It is with satisfaction that FIFA has taken note of the decisions taken by the French Football Federation," FIFA said in a statement. "FIFA feels that these decisions have preserved the credibility of French football as a whole, and have thus settled a matter which was of great concern to the world football federation," the statement said.

"FIFA will consult with the European Football Union, UEFA, during the next week about any possible further measures to be taken against the Marseille club," the statement said.

UEFA has already barred titleholders Marseille from this season's Champions Cup, the most prestigious of the European club tournaments. Angered at the slowness of investigations into the corruption charges, FIFA had given the French Federation until Thursday to take action or risk expulsion from global competition.

Kasparov merciless after 7th win

LONDON (R) — Reigning world chess champion Garry Kasparov was in majestic mood after widening his already commanding lead over British challenger Nigel Short Tuesday by winning seven of their title match.

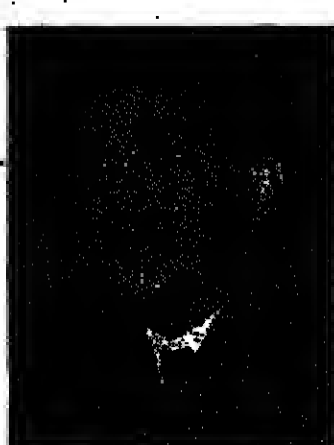
Kasparov, 30, now leads the 24-game contest 5½ to 1½ with four wins and three draws. He needs only a 12-12 tie to retain his crown.

The crowd in London's Savoy Theatre erupted in applause when Short, 28, resigned after a game which followed a familiar pattern.

Kasparov played quietly in the opening despite the advantage of the white pieces but quickly baffled watching experts who could not pinpoint where Short's game began to slide downhill.

Kasparov capped a subtle maneuvering game with the whirlwind sacrificial checkmating attack that is his trademark.

"Kasparov's best game of the



Garry Kasparov

match. What a massacre," said English grandmaster Raymond Keene.

Kasparov was persistently asked afterwards if the lopsided score damaged the credibility of the PCA (Professional Chess Association), which he and Short

founded after world chess body FIDE disqualified them in a dispute over match conditions.

Kasparov, a half-Jewish, half-Armenian Russian, could not extend any sympathy to those who might lose interest as the match showed every sign of becoming a rout.

"I'm playing a world championship match and I have to retain my title," he said. I wanted to win in crushing fashion and if it is not as close as people wanted, I'm sorry, but there is nothing I can do for them."

He also had no patience for the suggestion of a reunification match against the winner of the FIDE match.

"We are playing the World Championship match, not a charity match. I will play the legitimate challenger from the cycle, the PCA cycle we are organising, not from some rival organisation," Kasparov said.

The champion promised to reveal "big news" from the PCA before the end of the match, with corporate sponsorship that would guarantee the vitality of fledgling organisation.

Kasparov was asked if he had known that Princess Diana, wife of heir to the throne Prince Charles, had been a spectator for the seventh game.

"I was told after the game. It shows that there is a lot of public interest. Unfortunately I paid too much attention to the game," he smiled.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMMAM HIRSH
© Tribune Media Services, Inc.

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K8752 ♣6 ♠83 ♠97532
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
Pass 1 ♣ Dbl ?
What action do you take?
- Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K8752 ♣6 ♠83 ♠97532
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♣ 1 ♣ Dbl ?
—Penalties
What action do you take?
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AK5 ♣83 ♠95 ♠Q10953
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
2 ♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AK5 ♣83 ♠AK5 ♠AK1083
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K85 ♣AK5 ♠AK5 ♠AK1083
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K85 ♣AK5 ♠AK5 ♠AK1083
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
1 ♣ Pass ?
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Belgian foreign minister arrives today for talks on peace process, EC role

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes, current chairman of the European Community (EC) Council of Ministers, arrives here today for talks on the Middle East peace process in the aftermath of the dramatic developments in the past four weeks.

"We look forward to meeting the Belgian minister and exchanging views with him on the important events taking place in the region," Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan said.

Mr. Claes' visit is the first to Jordan by a senior EC official after the signing last week of the Israel-Palestinian agreement on interim autonomy and the Jordan-Israeli agenda outlining the principles for a peace agreement.

The Israel-PLO accord was signed on Sept. 13, and Jordan formalised its agenda with Israel one day later.

"It is only natural that the president of the EC Council of Ministers would like to gain first-hand information on the views of Jordan, a key player in the peace process," Mr. Hassan told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Claes, who arrived in Amman last night, will spend a few hours in Amman "listening to Jordanian views on the peace process," said the Belgian ambassador to Jordan, Pierre du Muelenaere.

His Majesty King Hussein is expected to meet with Mr. Claes although a definite schedule was not worked out by late Wednesday. The minister will be leaving Jordan late evening, the ambassador said.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and Mr. Hassan are scheduled to hold talks with Mr. Claes shortly after his

arrival. Jordan enjoys "excellent" relations with the EC and the EC Executive Commission, Mr. Hassan noted. "The talks of the Belgian minister will also include a focus on ways and means to enhance relations and cooperation between the EC as collective body and Jordan as well as Jordan and Belgium," added the minister, who served as the Kingdom's ambassador in Brussels as well as to the EC, which is based in the Belgian capital.

Diplomatic sources said they expected Jordan to reaffirm its support for the Israel-PLO agreement and its pledges of support for the implementation of the accord as well as how the Kingdom intended to proceed along the track of its own peace talks with Israel on the basis of the agenda signed on Sept. 14.

"Another point of discussions," said a European diplomat, "will definitely be Jordan's economy, and how the Kingdom perceives itself to be affected, negatively and positively, by the peace process and its developments."

Minister of State for Prime Minister Affairs Jawad Anani said early this week that Jordan would seek international assistance to help its economy. But, he said, Jordan will not "compete" with the Palestinians for such assistance.

"We would like to see as much aid as possible going to the Palestinian economy in the occupied territories," he said, implying that Jordan would be seeking assistance beyond the international funding being planned by the World Bank and the U.S., a co-sponsor of the peace process, for the Palestinians.

Jordan is also reportedly drawing up a demand for compensation for hosting Palestinian refugees. No figures have

been mentioned. The EC commission originally proposed 500 European currency units (ECUs) — worth around \$600 million — as its contribution to support the Palestine self-rule envisaged under the Israel-PLO accord. EC sources said later that a higher, unspecified amount was under consideration. No final decision has been adopted.

The EC Commission's contribution will be separate from aid from individual members of the community. European countries will be participating in a donors' conference to be held in the U.S. next month to discuss contributions to the Palestinians.

An EC delegation is touring the oil-rich Gulf states to encourage them to extend support for the Palestinians. Kuwait said late Tuesday that the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council will be meeting before the end of the year to discuss the issue (see page 2).

Israel is counting on stepped up trade ties and preferential treatment by the EC and American arms in return for its signing of the agreement with the PLO.

Amidst the international flurry of seeking funds for the self-rule to support the eventual course towards peace in the Middle East, very little has been said about Jordan's economy, which is continuing to suffer from the severe impact of the Gulf crisis and the international sanctions imposed against Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait.

"I expect Jordan to present these factors in general terms to Mr. Claes during his talks here tomorrow," said the European diplomat.

Mr. Claes will address a press conference late Thursday before his departure.



REFUGEE SERVICES: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday visits a U.N.-run school in the Hittin refugee camp outside Amman (see page 3)

Arafat names security force chief

TUNIS (AP) — Yasser Arafat has named the commanders of the security force he plans to deploy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho when Israel withdraws, most of them pro-Jordanian veterans, according to a decree obtained by the Associated Press.

The document, issued by Mr. Arafat before he left for China Tuesday, lists the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman as the commander-in-chief of the planned 20,000-man "Palestine Central Security Force."

It also said he wants to deploy some units in Gaza and Jericho before the Israeli pullout has been completed.

PLO sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the appointments are a preliminary list which will be presented to the Israelis.

PLO and Israeli officials are currently hammering out details of the security arrangements in Gaza and Jericho, which under the first phase of the Sept. 13 peace pact signed in Washington will be handed over to the PLO before the end of the year. The rest of the West Bank will

gain autonomy later and the final status of the territories will be determined before the end of a five-year interim period.

The list of proposed commanders includes staunch loyalists from Mr. Arafat's old guard and his mainstream Fatah faction.

But there is a preponderance of officers from the Jordan-based Badr Brigade of the Palestine Liberation Army, formed in 1964 as the PLO's conventional military wing.

Most of these have strong links with the Jordanian army, to which the 3,000-strong Badr Brigade has been attached for the last two decades.

That indicates that Mr. Arafat is "contemplating close cooperation between his forces and Jordan. He has said a Palestinian state will confederate with Jordan at some stage."

Among the appointments are: Maj. Gen. Nasr Yousif, a member of the PLO's Revolutionary Council and the movement's general staff, as director of national security in the autonomous zones.

Maj-Gen. Abu Khalid Al Amla, the PLO's former security

chief in Beirut, as police commander in Jericho.

Maj-Gen. Al Haj Ismael, commander of PLA forces in Iraq, and Brig. Mohammad Qudsiya, a senior Badr Brigade officer, as deputy police commanders in Jericho.

Maj. Gen. Abdul Razzak Al Nijadeh, who currently commands PLA forces in Jordan, as police commander in Gaza.

Maj-Gen. Khalid Sultan and Maj-Gen. Mansour Sharif as deputy police chiefs in Gaza.

Maj. Gen. Yassen Saadea as ordnance commander.

Maj-Gen. Fakhri Shakoura as military intelligence chief.

Maj-Gen. Ahmad Afana, Mr. Arafat's deputy chief of staff, as director of operations.

Brig. Mufrej Abu Humaid, commander of PLA forces in Yemen, as Mr. Arafat's security adviser.

Gen. Yousef, a veteran guerrilla commander, has already been sent to Jordan to work out the deployment of the first security force contingent in advance of the installation of the Palestinian administration, PLO officials reported.

Demjanjuk arrives in U.S.

NEW YORK (AP) — Seven years after he left the United States in handcuffs on charges that he was a notorious Nazi, John Demjanjuk returned Wednesday as a free man.

The 73-year-old Demjanjuk, nicknamed "Ivan the Terrible," flew in on an El Al jet that touched down at 6:40 a.m. (1040 GMT) at Kennedy international airport. A chartered smaller plane awaited him, apparently to take him back to his home in Ohio.

Mr. Demjanjuk was quiet during the flight, speaking to reporters only through his family. "It is time for him to fade back into normal life," said his son-in-law, Ed Nishnic.

Other passengers were more vocal.

"They gave him bread to eat and I'm supposed to touch it after him?" yelled Eden Kohada, an Israeli woman who resides in Los Angeles.

The Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk, a retired auto worker from the Cleveland suburb of Seven Hills, had been imprisoned in Israel for 7½ years, five of them under a death sentence.

He had been extradited from the United States and convicted in an Israeli court of being "Ivan" a guard at the Treblinka camp. He said he was a Soviet soldier captured by the Nazis.

Since the conviction, evidence has emerged from newly opened Soviet archives casting strong doubt that Mr. Demjanjuk was "Ivan." The Israeli supreme court overturned the conviction in July, but said there was strong evidence Mr. Demjanjuk had served as a guard at Sobibor, another camp in Nazi-occupied Poland.

At Israel's Ben Gurion airport, angry passengers shouted as Demjanjuk boarded the jet.

"He should have stayed in prison. In my opinion, he's as guilty as guilty can be," said 72-year-old Edward Spicer of Los Angeles. Mr. Spicer said he was imprisoned in four Nazi camps during World War II.

Mr. Demjanjuk remained jailed until all appeals were exhausted.

As he took the seat on the jet, Mr. Demjanjuk was surrounded by relatives and bodyguards. Asked how he felt, he smiled slightly but did not otherwise reply.

"We feel really good. We can't wait to get home," Mr. Nishnic answered instead.

Mr. Demjanjuk was brought to the airport, not far from Tel Aviv, in a police convoy that included seven police cars and two vans, after being freed earlier from the maximum security Ayalon prison.

Still, across Israel, the emotions stirred by Mr. Demjanjuk have largely ebbed. Six years ago, his trial obsessed the country, with proceedings broadcast live and avidly followed. When a court Sunday cleared the way for his release, it no longer was front-page news.

Mr. Demjanjuk flew from New York to a small Ohio airport to jeers before heading to an undisclosed location.

About 50 demonstrators were waiting for him when he arrived at the John F. Kennedy airport in New York and they pledged not to leave him in peace and that there would be other demonstrations when he arrived in Cleveland.

But he sighted Cleveland for the small airport in nearby Medina where there was no one waiting for him, according to the co-pilot of the airplane Paul Fiorino.

Border blockade stems tide of illegal immigrants

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP) — Juan Rios has been crossing the Rio Grande illegally every day for seven months — with hardly any problems — to get to his job as a painter's assistant in El Paso, Texas. On Monday, he ran into Operation Blockade. About 400 border patrol agents began the round-the-clock watch last weekend along a 20-mile (32-kilometres) stretch of the U.S. border, from El Paso to Sunland Park, N.M. The goal is to deter people from trying to cross, rather than trying to catch them once they're in the United States. "I've never seen it like this," Rios said as he waited patiently on an international bridge with dozens of others hoping in vain to get across. "What's their problem?" The problem, officials say, is the thousands of illegal immigrants who flood into the United States from Mexico each day. The bridge from Ciudad Juarez to El Paso is a big crossing point. Many Mexicans take boats under the bridge, climb up the banks and slip through holes in the border fence. Others just walk across the bridge, hiding behind cars or trucks, then make a dash past U.S. customs agents. Sylvester Reyes, chief border patrol agent in El Paso, said he decided to try a blockade after community members complained about crime in border areas and the sheer numbers of illegal border crossers. "This type of operation is at this point the most effective and realistic response," he said.

Deng Lin discharged from S. Korean hospital

SEOUL (AFP) — Deng Lin, the daughter of China's paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, was discharged from a hospital in Jaeyon Wednesday after falling ill earlier in the week while touring Expo '93, a hospital spokesman said. The spokesman for Sun Hospital said Ms. Deng, 52, was discharged because her temperature had returned to normal although she was not fully recovered from her acute tonsillitis. Ms. Deng collapsed Monday with chills and a high fever while touring the site of Expo '93 in Taejeon, some 250 kilometres (150 miles) south of Seoul, and was immediately rushed to the hospital. She arrived in South Korea on Sept. 12 as one of several Chinese artists whose works are featured at an exhibition that opened in Seoul two days later. Shortly after her arrival, she told a press conference her aging father was in good health, dismissing recent speculation he was gravely ill.

Smoking may be more dangerous for women — study

NEW YORK (AFP) — Women seem more prone to lung cancer from cigarette smoking than men, with women who smoked the most facing the largest risk, a new study suggests. For women who smoked the equivalent of a pack a day for 60 years the disparity was the greatest. Female smokers at that level had 82 times the risk of lung cancer of non-smoking women, while heavy male smokers had 23 times the risk of their non-smoking counterparts, said Dr. Harvey Risch, an associate professor of epidemiology and public health at the Yale University School of Medicine. The study was published in the American Journal of Epidemiology. But Dr. Michael Thun of the American Cancer Society said no one study could prove that women were more prone to lung cancer from smoking than men. Other studies, he said, had shown the opposite.

France steps up fight against drugs

PARIS (R) — France has announced a fresh drive against drugs, a scourge affecting up to 300,000 people and blamed for thousands of deaths each year. Prime Minister Edouard Balladur said Tuesday he would step up action at home and cooperation abroad and spend 85 million francs (\$15 million) to crack down on traffickers, treat addicts and stage large publicity campaigns to warn teenagers off drugs. "The government is fully determined to fight this scourge whose individual and collective consequences are disastrous," Mr. Balladur told a news conference. He said France would make implementation of the Schengen Agreement on free circulation of people within the European Community conditional upon its partners abiding by EC resolutions on drugs and improving operational cooperation.

Yeltsin, rivals duel

(Continued from page 1)

hoped the international community "will understand the necessity of the measures adopted," the U.N. chief's spokesman Joe Sills said in New York Wednesday.

Initial reaction from Russia's regions, whose backing in the struggle may prove crucial, appeared mainly favourable to Mr. Yeltsin. Some voiced criticism or took a wait-and-see approach.

Several thousand hardline conservatives and nationalists gathered outside parliament on Tuesday night and some began building barricades amid rumours of movements by troops supporting the 62-year-old Kremlin leader.

But the night passed calmly and the crowd dwindled to a few hundred by morning. The Defence Ministry said it was remaining neutral in the struggle.

Resuming its session after a few hours break, parliament passed an omnibus resolution on "urgent measures to overcome the and-constitutional coup d'état."

It proposed to the public prosecutor's office, which has been closer to parliament in the year-long struggle for power, to investigate and bring to justice all officials who had helped prepare the "coup" or had supported it.

Jordan and the PLO — time for new relationship

(Continued from page 1)

has been hinting at the possibility of postponing the next parliamentary elections scheduled for Nov. 8 partly due to uncertainty of how many Palestinians could go back to their original homes in Palestine and what would be the exact status of those who either choose to stay or are not allowed to return.

Jordanian officials had indicated just before Mr. Arafat's arrival that this would be an item of discussion with the PLO, and a final decision on whether to hold or postpone the elections would largely depend on the outcome of the talks. It was not immediately clear whether the issue was actually discussed and, if so, to what extent the two leaders attempted to find answers to the many crucial questions that are being asked and debated.

A senior Jordanian official, however, told the Jordan Times that the issue did not come up, except in the most general way, but mostly in what concerns the displaced persons (refugees from the 1967 war) and their chances of participating in the elections for the Palestinian legislative council envisaged in the autonomous accord.

"All those who hold Jordanian passports, whether from Palestinian origin or otherwise, will have the right to vote if and when elections are held here," the official said. "It is purely an internal Jordanian matter that the PLO is not involved in."

The Jordanians are split down the middle on the issue of the elections, but not necessarily those from Palestinian origin, introducing in the process the new-old element of the Jordanian-Palestinian divide in the political alignment of the country. The dominant factor had hitherto been polarisation around either the Islamists' or establishment's ideals and policies.

Another major concern for Jordan, which might also have a significant impact on the internal situation in the Kingdom, is the proposal for confederation between Jordan and a future Palestinian state.

Mr. Arafat, after his Sept. 20 meetings with the King, said that the confederation idea was not discussed, but "I am committed to confederation, because this is our political programme and I had been elected by our Palestine National Council (PNC) according to this programme, based on clear PNC resolutions, con-

firmed confederal relations between Jordan and Palestine, according to the free choice of the two peoples."

For historical reasons, but especially after the agreement on mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel, some Jordanian officials have generally been sceptical about Palestinian determination to opt for confederal relations with the Kingdom rather than with Israel. And Jordanian fears had been further fuelled by certain articles in the Oslo agreement which barred Israel's intentions to link the future Palestinian economy to that of Israel. Jordan realises that Israel, with a \$60 billion economy, cannot only absorb a Palestinian economy that is 20 times smaller but can also prevent Jordan from reaping any peace dividend, whether it results from the funds that are expected to be allocated to development in the occupied territories or from exports to and economic cooperation with the new entity.

Jerusalem also remains a big concern for Jordan, although the King and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan have been referring to it not as a political issue but as one that concerns Al Waqf (Islamic property belonging to the state) and the custodianship of the holy places.

The "agenda" agreement that Jordan signed with Israel on Sept. 14 included no reference to Jerusalem, but that was not the only reason why the accord drew criticism from Islamists and other Jordanian rejectionists. The agenda also drew fire from them because it is more of a declaration of principles and commits Jordan not to threaten Israel by any use of force and to the elimination of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

According to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, who had originally negotiated the agenda with the Israelis as chief delegate to the peace talks, the agreement was basically over five major issues of concern to Jordan — the return of Jordanian land occupied by Israel (350 sq-km occupied after the 1967 war), water rights, solving the problem of Palestinian refugees stuck in Jordan and preventing the forced transfer of Palestinians from the West Bank to the East Bank, as well as security for both sides.

Except for two minor amendments that were necessitated by the new reality of Palestinian independence, the agenda agreement was the same as that reached during the seventh round of bilateral talks held in Washington last October. The announcement of the agreement had been held back by the previous government of Sharif Zeid Ibn Shaker partly to prevent an expected uproar in the now-dissolved Parliament over it but also because Jordan wanted to make it a point to the Palestinians that it would not step ahead of them in making peace with Israel.

Dr. Majali announced on the day of the signing that the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, which had attended the 12 rounds of negotiations together, was now separating into independent teams. His government, however, has not talked about what the new legal status of the delegation might be, considering that the "autonomy" agreement still mentioned the joint delegation by name.

A last-minute change to the Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles on the day of the signing (Sept. 13) introduced "the PLO delegation" instead of "the Palestinian delegation" but kept it under the "joint delegation" to the Middle East peace conference, according to information available to the Jordan Times.

Satisfaction of Syria's demand for the restoration of its sovereignty over the Golan Heights is essential as it would compel Damascus to suppress dissident Palestinian factions which operate there. Only one of these retains a substantial popular constituency in Palestine, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) led by George Habash. But his long-time lieutenant, Bassam Abu Sharif, now a political adviser to Mr. Arafat, says of the doctor: "He is a man of the past, a man living in the past. He has not recognised what has happened in the world since the Soviet Union collapsed. We must face the new world and look ahead to the future of our people who are suffering, who are starving."

In Abu Jafar's opinion, a comprehensive settlement involving the PLO, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan and approved by the Arab countries of the Middle East could lead to new "security arrangements," perhaps even a "mutual security pact." The object of such a pact would be to promote political stability among the "secular" regimes of the region and economic development of their resources so their people would not turn in desperation to "the Islamic solution."

Asked if Turkey, and ultimately even Iran, could be brought into whatever regional system was set up, Abu Jafar responded: "Baghdad pact" involving the Arabs with the "northern tier" of Iran and Turkey which the U.S. and the U.K. tried to construct in the fifties to defend the Middle East from the Soviet Union. Instead, membership of a new regional arrangement should be confined to countries with a common identity and shared interests.

Abu Jafar insisted: "As a secular state Iraq should be brought back into the coalition of secular regimes which oppose fundamentalism." This

accord, extended its support to the PLO instead during a meeting between Mr. Arafat, Lieutenant-General Omar Al Bashir and Dr. Hassan Tourabi in Khartoum. Abu Jafar said the chairman had been "surprised" to find Dr. Tourabi more accommodating than the general.

Iraq could be brought into the pro-settlement Arab consensus if the West were to lift economic sanctions imposed in 1990 and permit the sale of Iraqi oil so that the country could again begin to pay its way in the world. Because Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has supported the PLO, Jordan and Egypt during its 1989 "peace offensive," his backing for the Oslo agreement was forthcoming if his country was permitted to rejoin the world community.

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Rehabilitation of Iran, Iraq and efficient use of funds could dilute opposition

From Michael Jansen in Tunis

OPPOSITION to the Oslo accord signed in Washington on Sept. 13 by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel comes from governments and groups in the region which have been isolated by the post-cold war world order. The governments are those of Iran and Iraq and the groups are leftist Palestinian factions based in Damascus and the Lebanese Hizbollah and the Palestinian Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements.

In the view of Mohammad Abu Hila (Abu Jafar), a senior PLO official, most organised opposition could be contained by ending the isolation of Iran and Hizbollah at political and financial management of the implementation of the accords so that the leftist and Islamist dissidents cannot use popular discontent to create opposition.

The main focus of attention

would be the occupied territories where an "immediate injection" of substantial financial assistance would demonstrate that the Oslo accord could change things for the better for families living at subsistence level, particularly in the Gaza Strip. There could be such an injection of funds, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said, if the Gulf states were to release "hundreds of millions of dollars" in revenues collected from Palestinian expatriates in "liberation" tax since the 1990 Kuwait crisis.

The next step would be to inject short-term aid of about \$700 million pledged by Scandinavian, the European Community, the U.S. and Japan.

Mr. Arafat was particularly concerned about the increasingly saline water in Gaza causing kidney and liver ailments among the population there. Over the long-term the

World Bank is prepared to provide \$4.3 billion in development loans at one per cent interest for five years, he said. These sums would launch the PLO's \$11.5 billion development plan drawn up by Dr. Yusef Sayegh currently in Washington for discussions with the bank.

Iran's opposition could be reduced if the international community would reinstate the Islamic republic and provide the sort of financial incentives it requires to rebuild its devastated economy after 14 years of mismanagement by the mullahs. Such aid and investment would strengthen the so-called "moderates" among the ruling clerics who would be in a position to curb the adventurist "radicals" opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace process as a betrayal of the "Islamic land" of Palestine.

If Iran could be neutralised, its support for the Lebanese Hizbollah movement would

fall off and if there was a settlement with Beirut involving Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, Hizbollah would be deprived of its casus belli and the Lebanese army would be free to police the frontier area.

The Hamas and Islamic Jihad would be much less effective as opposition groupings if their financial supporters in the Gulf — Kuwait and Saudi Arabia — were to cut funds for health, educational and social welfare services the Islamists provide for the poor in Gaza and the West Bank. Abu Jafar made it clear that the main reason the oil-rich states backed these Islamic dissidents was "opposition to the PLO." If there was rapprochement following the Gulf Cooperation Council's endorsement of the PLO-Israeli accord, funding for Islamic militants should end, Abu Jafar asserted.

Sudan, the only other country which might have backed Islamic opposition to the